

THE TIMES



No. 66,482

THURSDAY APRIL 8 1999

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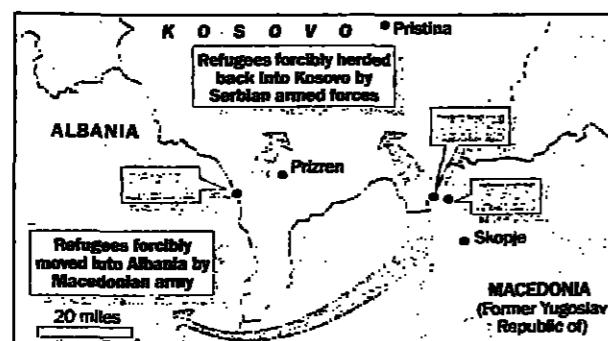
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30p
EVERY
WEEKDAY

'The Macedonians worked even faster than the Serbs to get these people out of their country'



Refugees moved at dead of night



A doll, family albums, passports:
all went under the bulldozer at
Blace, reports Daniel McGroarty

THE United Nations led the condemnation yesterday of a midnight raid by Macedonian troops to evict forcibly 30,000 refugees from their makeshift camp on the border.

And there was further alarm as the Serbs suddenly closed their borders at Blace and Jazinc, ordering thousands of ethnic Albanians back to their homes in Kosovo. Nato officers fear they will now be used as human shields against allied attacks.

At Blace, aid workers described how Macedonian soldiers spread through the camp tearing down tents and dragging families on to buses that were then driven across the neighbouring border.

In the frightened mêlée, parents were separated from children and most were prevented from bringing even the few possessions they salvaged when they fled Kosovo.

The UNHCR called this evacuation brutal and a fundamental violation of human rights. "You do not move people at dead of night without telling anyone where they are going and split up families in the haste to tip them out of your country," an official said.

As dawn rose over what had suddenly become a ghost camp there was ample and poignant evidence of how ruthlessly these thousands of Kosovo Albanians were moved. A child's doll lay trampled in the mud. Passports and documents were strewn among a tangle of clothes and in the mud were obviously treasured keepsakes such as a family photo album and letters. Jars of baby food sat open on tables made from cardboard boxes. Meals were half-eaten, a radio

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Government U-turn on Pill warning

BY HELEN RUMBLE

THE Government has made a U-turn on its advice on contraceptive pills, four years after health warnings caused panic and led to an estimated 30,000 abortions.

Jeremy Metters, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday the abortions were "regretted". The Government released new guidelines reversing the 1995 safety alert when it warned women and GPs that the leading "third generation" brand warning they should not be taken unless absolutely necessary.

The alarm affected about two million women, half of all British women taking oral contraceptives. Twelve per cent immediately stopped taking the Pill and abortions, which had been on the decline, rose by 9 per cent that year and are continuing to rise.

Medical experts and manufacturers blamed the Government for the sensational health scare which was based on evidence that had yet to be



Police tackle runaways

Twelve players from Ivory Coast's under-19 rugby team have gone on the run apparently in the hope of staying in Britain. Police in South Wales say they are hopeful of finding them because they have only a smattering of English, and are believed to be wearing their navy blue team tracksuits.

Man of 61 admits Mardi bombings

BY RICHARD DUCE AND ADAM FRESCO

A MAN aged 61 admitted yesterday that he was the Mardi Gras killer who waged a 3½-year campaign across London and the Home Counties.

Edgar Pearce, a former advertising employee from Chiswick, West London, tried to extort millions of pounds from Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's as he planted 36 devices, the Old Bailey was told.

The bombs contained pins and ball bearings. By the time his campaign was brought to an end, six people were injured and only luck stopped anyone from being killed. The cost to Sainsbury's is estimated at £640,000 in lost trade. Barclays spent £140,000 on extra security.

The bombs became more sophisticated as Pearce's campaign developed, and police regarded him to be as dangerous as the IRA. The devices were first delivered to bank branches from December 1994 and later left outside Sainsbury's supermarkets. Pearce's

demands were open-ended with no time limit set on how long the blackmail would continue. He hoped to use cash-point machines to receive up to £10,000 each day. In the end, he had withdrawn £700 when he was trapped. He will be sentenced in a few days.

Detective Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Rees, from the Organised Crime Group, said:

"This was a callous, calculating individual who was wholly indifferent to the possibility that the devices might cause death or serious injury."

Pearce admitted 20 charges, involving blackmail attempts, the possession of explosives and wounding. Charges against his brother Ronald, 67, were dropped. Ronald admitted possessing a stun gun but the prosecution accepted he played no part in the extortion. He was sentenced to 12 months but he escaped because of time he has spent in prison.

Full story, pages 2 & 3



Deserted village: belongings salvaged by refugees as they fled Kosovo lie abandoned after their second eviction from Blace

Merry dash to save US prisoners

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE three American soldiers captured by Serb forces and being held as PoWs could be freed today after a surprise intervention by a veteran Cypriot politician, Spyros Kyriakou, the parliamentary president, expects to fly to Belgrade this morning after declaring that he was confident he could secure their release.

He has been in close contact with the Serbian leadership and, if successful, hopes to return with them to Cyprus.

"I believe, I hope my mission will succeed," he as he left for Athens where Greece has provided a plane for Belgrade.

His original schedule called for him to fly Belgrade last night but the Greek Government

ment was told by Washington that it was impossible for any commercial planes to enter Yugoslav airspace because of Nato's bombardment.

The gesture by the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, came a day after NATO brushed aside his offer of a ceasefire for the Orthodox Easter this weekend. Freeing the Americans would remove the huge public outcry in the United States.

The three, which NATO says were non-combat troops, were seized near the border between Macedonia and Kosovo. Belgrade threatened to put them on trial as spies but later said it would free them when the bombing ended.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR MONEY

£5 million was donated in the first 24 hours of an appeal by 12 British aid charities who have joined under the auspices of the Disasters Emergency Committee to help the Kosovar refugees. Other charities have also received thousands of pounds. All are seeking money rather than goods.

Disasters Emergency Committee:
Phone lines 0870 6050900 and 0990 222233.
Cheques: Kosovar Crisis Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC4A 9AA.

Refugee:
Phone line 01732 520111.
Cheques: Rafah-Kosovo Appeal, UK for UNHCR, 21st floor, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London SW1 4QP.

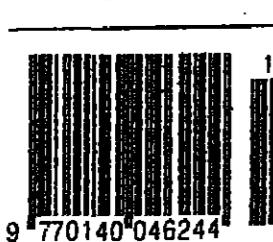
Action Against Hunger:
Phone line 0171-242 5665.
Postal address: Action Against Hunger UK, 1 Catton Street, London WC1R 4AB.
Donations may also be made at banks and post offices.



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The calling card Pearce left on his first six bombs

- Only he knew store cards were cash cards
- He told police to give them away in magazine
- He knew the Pin codes

Cash machine ploy gave police the upper hand

EDGAR PEARCE, the Mardi Gra bomber, was defeated by a high-technology police operation involving the kind of manpower formerly reserved for dealing with the IRA.

Pearce, 61, believed he had developed a foolproof plan to extort money from Barclays Bank, and then the Sainsbury's supermarket chain, after making their branches the target of a succession of home-made bomb attacks. He hit upon the idea of extorting money using the national network of automatic cash dispensers.

Pearce insisted that promotional plastic cards be placed inside a national magazine. Only he knew that the cards could be used in a cashpoint machine, and the personal identification number.

On December 27, 1997, police placed a brief entry in the personal column of *The Daily Telegraph* reading: "M. Work will be completed and ready for London circulation on Thursday 26th March 1998. This is the earliest possible date. Hope it meets your schedule. G."

It was the breakthrough the police had been waiting for. They set up electronic monitoring of hundreds of cash machines across London in the hope that the bomber would pay one of them a visit. The

HOW THE BOMBER WAS CAUGHT

Stewart Tendler, Richard Duce and Adam Fresco on the problems faced by investigators

bombings, however, did not stop and in January and February there were further attacks on Sainsbury's stores in West and South London.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch and a veteran of IRA bombing inquiries, later admitted he was so worried that the bomber would eventually kill someone that he would lie awake in a cold sweat.

As the cat and mouse game with Pearce continued, police began to set in train the plan, Operation Heath, that would lead to his capture and conviction at the Old Bailey.

Sainsbury's had improved its closed-circuit television cameras and increased uniformed and undercover patrols. However, Pearce had always eluded them by making sure that his face was never captured on camera.

Surveillance was so intense that police broke a drugs smuggling operation when

they saw two men unloading boxes from a van into a car at Sainsbury's car park at Chiswick. The car was stopped and found to be carrying £1 million of cannabis resin. Two men, one of them a retired RAF officer, were subsequently jailed.

On March 17, another bomb exploded in Eltham, southeast London, soon after two mothers had walked past pushing their babies in prams. Pearce was captured on camera, only for the second time in the three-year bombing campaign, but again his face could not be seen.

The cards could be used for seven days only. For four days nothing happened, and the Operation Heath team began to despair. Then, on day five, April 28, there were two withdrawals. Police rushed to the addresses in West London, but he had gone.

A few hours later the alarm in the control room went off again. Cash was being withdrawn from a machine at

which thousands could be withdrawn each day. At the same time the police electronically linked hundreds of cash machines to a special centre at Scotland Yard, codenamed Central 500, from which many of the big anti-IRA operations were normally run. Closed-circuit television cameras were also rigged up.

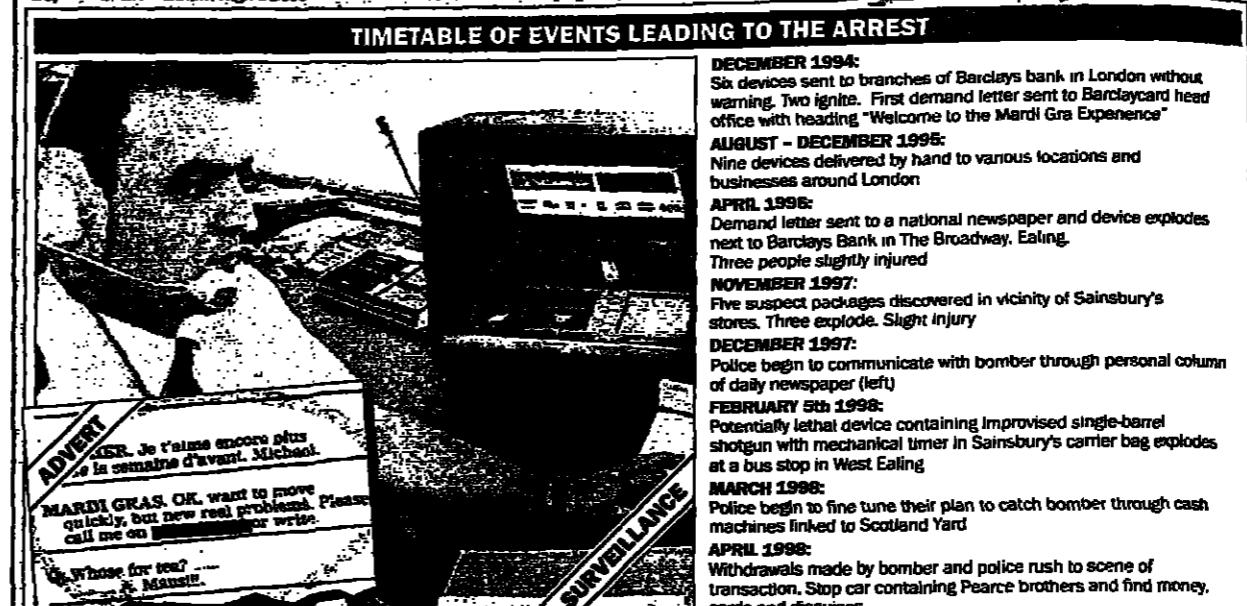
Under Operation Heath, the Yard planned to deploy more than 400 officers to keep watch across West and South London each day. Officers were brought in from the specialist squads and help was sought in every part of the capital.

As soon as a card was used, Central 500 would get the address and alert the nearest team. Every officer was shown the closed-circuit television film of Pearce planting the bomb so that they knew his approximate build and height.

The cards could be used for seven days only. For four days nothing happened, and the Operation Heath team began to despair. Then, on day five, April 28, there were two withdrawals. Police rushed to the addresses in West London, but he had gone.

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TRAIL OF THE MARDI GRA BOMBER	
1994	
11 Dec 21	Barclays Bank, Hamstead, North London
12 Dec 21	Barclays Bank, Ledmore Grove, West London
13 Dec 21	Barclays Bank, Hammersmith, West London
14 Dec 21	Barclays Bank, Gloucester Rd, West London
15 Dec 21	Barclays Bank, Kensington, London
16 Dec 21	Barclays Bank, Paddington, London
1995	
1 May 13	Private address in Cambridge
2 June 21	PUB in Chiswick, West London
3 June 21	Carrieshop in Orpington, Kent
4 June 20	Demand to Barclayscard, Nottingham
5 July 5	Barclays Bank, Berkhamsted, Herts
6 July 14	Private address, in Amersham, Bucks
7 July 15	Private address, Richmond, southwest London
8 Aug 15	Private address, Welling, southeast London
9 Sept 12	Office in Whetstone, West London
10 Sept 12	Another office, Whetstone
11 Sept 17	Office in Wembley, northwest London
12 Oct 22	Telephone box in Chiswick, West London
13 Oct 22	Telephone box in Ealing, west London
14 Dec 21	Private address in Stowmarket, West London
15 Dec 21	Telephone box in Acton, West London
1996	
22 Jan 20	Barclays Bank in Ealing, West London
24 Feb 5	Outside Barclays Bank in Eltham, London
25 Apr 20	Outside Barclays Bank in Ealing
1997	
26 Nov 25	Sainsbury's in Romford
27 Nov 25	Sainsbury's in Croydon
28 Nov 25	Sainsbury's in Cheadle
29 Nov 25	Sainsbury's in Chelmsford
30 Nov 25	Sainsbury's Lee Green, southeast London
31 Dec 6	Sainsbury's in Ealing
1998	
32 Jan 16	Sainsbury's Chelmsford, West London
33 Feb 9	Uxbridge Road, West London
34 Feb 12	Cash machine, Forest Hill, picked up by customer later explodes
35 Mar 4	Forest Hill, southeast London
36 Mar 17	Ealing High Street



TIMETABLE OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE ARREST

DECEMBER 1994:	Self-device sent to branches of Barclays bank in London without warning. Two ignite. First demand letter sent to Barclaycard head office with heading "Welcome to the Mardi Gra Experience"
AUGUST - DECEMBER 1995:	Nine devices delivered by hand to various locations and businesses around London
APRIL 1996:	Demand letter sent to a national newspaper and device explodes next to Barclays Bank in The Broadway, Ealing. Three people slightly injured
NOVEMBER 1997:	Five suspect packages discovered in vicinity of Sainsbury's stores. Three explode. Slight injury
DECEMBER 1997:	Police begin to communicate with bomber through personal column of daily newspaper (left)
FEBRUARY 1998:	Potentially lethal device containing improvised single-barrel shotgun with mechanical timer in Sainsbury's carrier bag explodes at a bus stop in West Ealing
MARCH 1998:	Police begin to fine tune their plan to catch bomber through cash machines linked to Scotland Yard
APRIL 1998:	Withdrawals made by bomber and police rush to scene of transaction. Stop car containing Pearce brothers and find money, cards and disguised



At the moment of his arrest in southwest London, police lift the Mardi Gra bomber's wig before he is led away

Pensioner who picked up bomb in bag 'died of shock'

THE VICTIMS
previous health troubles — always. But on that day, her fighting spirit was taken away.

Less than three months after taking the bomb home Mrs Kane died of a virulent form of leukaemia. "The general opinion is that it triggered the illness," said Mrs March, a plant manager at a garden centre.

Relatives of Mrs Joan Kane, 74, a widow, said that she was haunted by the thought that she had carried one of the devices was so shocked, even though it did not go off, that her family claim it eventually killed her.

Curtis Dennis, a promising athlete, was injured in his thigh and despite successful surgery has been unable to resume his athletic career.

Relatives of Mrs Joan Kane, 74, a widow, said that she was haunted by the thought that she had carried one of the devices was so shocked, even though it did not go off, that her family claim it eventually killed her.

She would sit all day alone in her lounge, staring at the television, even though it was switched off, according to her daughter, Mrs March. She said that her mother suffered flashbacks, sank into a decline and finally died.

Mrs Kane had carried the bag home to Hanwell, West London, from a trip to her local Sainsbury's in December 1997. It is thought she picked up the bag when she was gathering up her shopping. She only realised what she had when she was unpacking. Her next-door neighbour came in, recognised the device, and called police. Mrs March, 51, said: "It was just sheer shock. She never even came to terms with it. She tried to go back to West Ealing a couple of times and had to be brought back. She had always battled through

lengths of copper piping for bomb-making, 272 12-gauge shotgun cartridges and a further quantity of 410 cartridges to be used in a specially adapted revolver.

After the Mardi Gra bomber's capture, Mr Grieve said:

"He had a really good plan, but we had a better one."



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Twisted mind of invisible man

THE BOMBER

Reports by Stewart Tendler,
Richard Duce and
Adam Fresco

AS THE Mardi Gras bomber spread fear and alarm across London during his three-year terror campaign detectives were advised to look for a single man or woman, no more than 40 years old, who could even be a renegade police officer.

Sitting in his West London terraced house with its neatly tended garden, 61-year-old unemployed Edgar Eugene Pearce probably allowed himself a smug smile of satisfaction as he realised police were no nearer to ending his home-made bombing exploits.

The son of a former East End tailor far from fitted the criminal profile offered by experts but with the benefit of hindsight there were alarming signs of a twisted mind at work. The few

people who knew Pearce regarded him as an obsessive perfectionist who had slipped into eccentric behaviour which included getting up at 6am every day to cook himself a roast meal for breakfast. At his three-storey council house in a Chiswick cul-de-sac Pearce had a well equipped workshop where he would while away the time by working on clocks and electronic gadgetry. It was here that he was eventually to piece together the simple bombs he made from a video box, spring and shotgun cartridge.

Edgar Pearce and his brother Ronald, 67, grew up in the East End of London where they went to local schools. Edgar decided a career in advertising and, after attending college, worked for several London firms before moving to South Africa in 1971.

He stayed there for the next five years and, along the way, acquired a working knowledge of firearms. By the time he returned to Britain he had married his wife Maureen and the pair set up a restaurant busi-

ness in Hayling Island, near Portsmouth, known as Jeanne's Cuisine.

The business seems to have been a success although Pearce's wife fell ill around the time of dealings with Barclays Bank which left him with his grudge against the bank.

When Pearce was deciding on his first target for an extortion plan it was Barclays that came to mind.

The couple sold up in 1982 and moved to Chiswick with their daughter Nicola before they eventually separated in 1987, although they remained on close terms.

Pearce would carry out DIY work on his former wife's home in Eltham, South-East London.

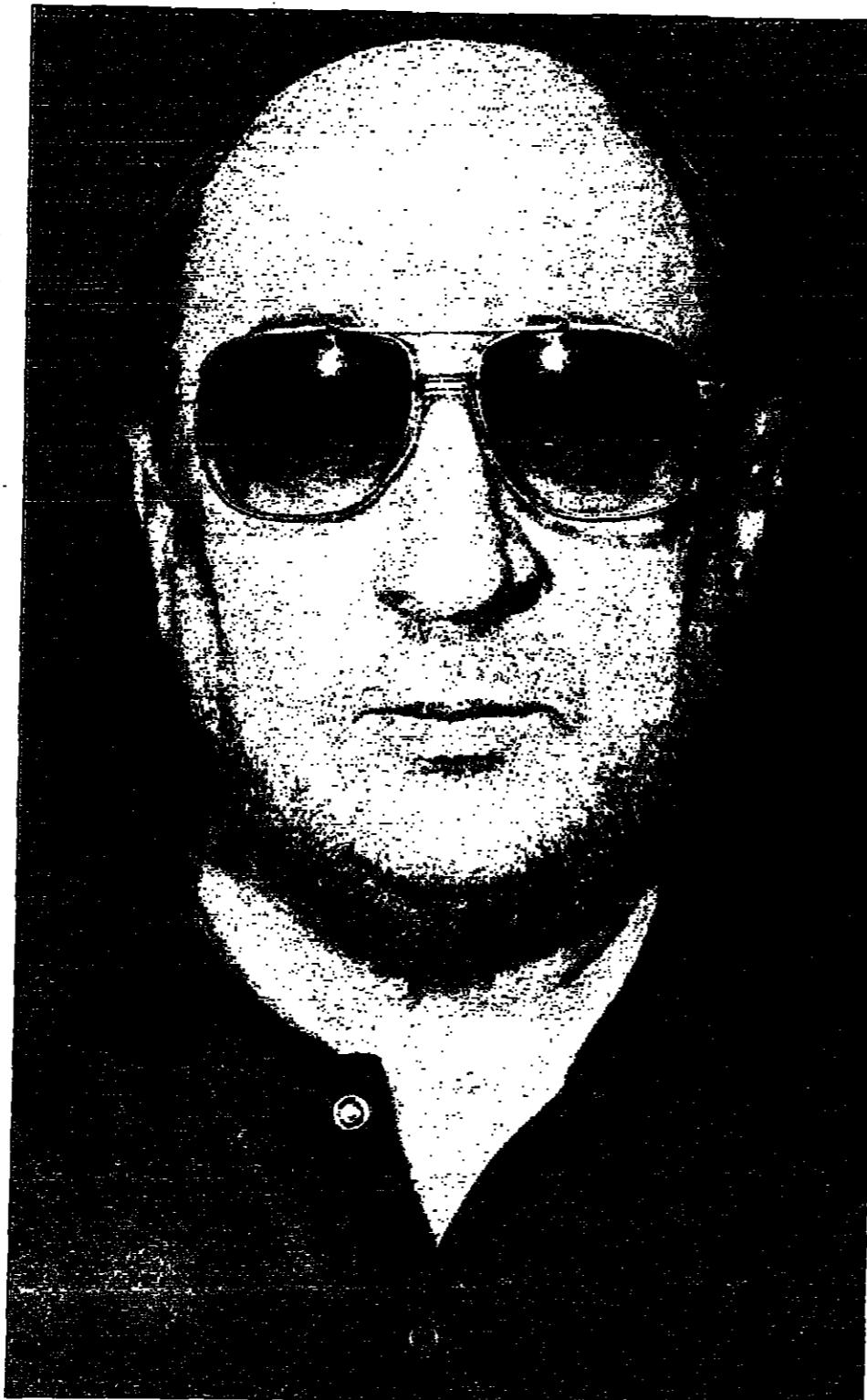
Pearce replaced his family by taking in lodgers at the house and neighbours remember him as an elusive outsider. He was distinctly unpopular with the local children, threatening them and telling them that he would poison their dogs, when he saw them playing in the street close to his front garden and his precious plants.

There was a closed-circuit camera over the front door — he told children playing nearby it was to ensure that they did not go near his flowerbeds.

He spent most of his time with his brother Ronald, a former Savile Row tailor, who lived less than a mile away in West London.

They drank at the Crown and Anchor public house on Chiswick High Road, only a few doors from the home Ronald Pearce shared with partner Sonia Bickham.

In June 1995, after being beaten up in the pub, apparently for rowdy behaviour, Edgar Pearce sent one of his devices to Andy Bennett, the landlord — he was the eighth target. Mr Bennett said later: "I thought someone had a vendetta



Edgar Pearce: an obsessive perfectionist who had slipped into eccentric behaviour

against me but I racked my brains and couldn't think why."

Pearce was known to be intelligent and knowledgeable about current affairs but his neighbour Brenda Williams said that he would ignore everyone else in the street. "He

was weird. He wouldn't speak to anyone at all." Other neighbours thought of him as the "invisible man" because he was so rarely seen in the street.

At night, Pearce, who was a heavy drinker, would sit by the side of his garden pond

reading until the small hours. Professor David Canter, director of the centre of investigative psychology at Liverpool University, said that Edgar Pearce was on a "search for some sort of feelings of achievement and self-worth rather than escape".



Ronald Pearce tries to shield his face after being freed at the Old Bailey yesterday

Girlfriend consoles ex-Savile Row tailor

THE BROTHER

THE brother of the Mardi Gras bomber was "drawn into something he knew nothing about", his girlfriend said as he was freed from prison.

Ronald Pearce, a former Savile Row tailor, was sentenced to a year in jail for possessing the stun gun that was found when he was arrested with his brother Edgar as he withdrew money from cash machines. He was freed yesterday because of the time he has spent in jail awaiting trial.

Ronald Pearce, bespectacled and wearing a grey sweatshirt, celebrated his freedom with Sonia Bickham at a restaurant in Chiswick, West London, with a cup of hot chocolate and a salad.

The couple sat holding hands as they chatted, catching up on lost time. Miss Bickham, who has known Ronald

good end." Miss Bickham said that they would be celebrating his release in private, and that they had no plans to marry. "He wants to get back to reality. He'll get through this. I don't know if he'll forgive it. He does better."

She described Ronald as "artistic in every way", adding: "He's a master of whatever he does."

A few hours earlier Ronald Pearce had listened intently in court as the Recorder of London told him: "You have not offered any explanation for your possession of this weapon. But the prosecution cannot say that you intended to use it in any way in the campaign conducted by your brother."

Pearce left court yesterday afternoon refusing to speak to waiting reporters.

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Daytime television gave inspiration for blackmail and bombs

THE PLOT

France, he stocked up on shotgun cartridges which he brought back in cases of wine.

He always wore gloves when carrying a bomb to its intended site and always wore the same jacket, which he never wore at home. When he made Sainsbury's his target, Pearce often placed devices inside the store's branded bags, cutting out serial numbers which linked bags to stores.

Pearce spoke French and decided to call himself the Mardi Gras bomber with his campaign starting on a Tuesday. He deliberately left the "S" from the end so that police would know that the bombs were his work. His first six bombs were sent to branches of Barclays which had been picked at random from Yellow Pages. He labelled them with a cutting from a home entertainment magazine which read: "Welcome to the Mardi Gras Experience."

Pearce switched from targeting Barclays when the bank's chairman expressed concern about the bomber and Pearce

believed that he would use the attacks as an excuse to close branches. He targeted Sainsbury's because he thought that it might be vulnerable to extortion as it fell behind Tesco in the supermarket war.

He sent secretly snatched pictures of Sainsbury shoppers to the Daily Mail, hoping to generate publicity for his cause and to pressure the supermarket to pay up. When the newspaper did not publish the photographs, he decided to use more dangerous devices to get publicity. Hearing that the IRA was using gas cylinders to achieve bigger explosions, he incorporated a wide range of devices in his campaign. These included a timed device which would fire shrapnel or cartridges from a length of tubing in a black bin liner.

It was only when he was caught on a police video camera in March 1998 in Eltham that officers knew for certain that they were hunting for a man. Black and white pictures showed him walk across the road, dump a black sack containing a shotgun device and walk off without looking round once.

A DEGREE IN TERROR

EDGAR PEARCE had studied and learnt from the crimes of Theodore Kaczynski, the American known as the Unabomber.

Pearce shared the American terrorist's careful preparation and planning, his ability to avoid detection for long periods, and an obsessive joy in outdoing his pursuers.

Kaczynski, who was a professor at the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s, eluded American investigators for 18 years while carrying out a string of terrorist attacks. By the time he was jailed for life in May last year, he had killed three people and injured 28 with home-made bombs containing razor blades and nails.

His motives were never clear.

Kaczynski had sent newspapers a rambling 62-page manuscript in which he demanded a return to "wild nature" and rallied against technology, the US Government, and major corporations, and was cited in some quarters as a radical environmentalist.

Kaczynski, then 55, was last year sentenced to three life terms for his terrorist crimes, and to another 30 years for killing three men and maiming two others.

A DAYTIME television repeat captured the imagination of Edgar Pearce. The programme focused on Rodney Witchello, a former detective who tried to extort almost £4 million from firms after he contaminated baby food.

Witchello was jailed for 17 years. Pearce, jobless and with time on his hands after a car accident which he says rendered him incapable of working, was riveted by the programme and believed he could go one better and evade capture. His first job was to establish a target and he hit on Barclays Bank, remembering a ten-year-old disagreement which he blamed for his wife falling ill when they ran a business together.

Then came the technological know-how on bomb building, which he pieced together from a television programme depicting spring-loaded cartridge devices. Over three years, the devices became more and more sophisticated as he grew in confidence.

Aware of the dangers of buying suspicious components close to home, he toured car boot sales. During trips to

France, he stocked up on shotgun cartridges which he brought back in cases of wine.

He always wore gloves when carrying a bomb to its intended site and always wore the same jacket, which he never wore at home. When he made Sainsbury's his target, Pearce often placed devices inside the store's branded bags, cutting out serial numbers which linked bags to stores.

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THE ARSENAL

By ADAM FRESCO AND RICHARD DUCE

THE potentially lethal bombs designed by Edgar Pearce in the garden workshop of his council house home became increasingly sophisticated as his terror campaign developed.

His first simple but effective device was built around an empty video box. Inside there was a shotgun bridge and a simple door bolt which acted as the firing mechanism. When the box was opened, a spring-loaded device shot the bolt into the 12 bore cartridge. One of the more elaborate devices in-



A gun and bullets recovered from Pearce's home

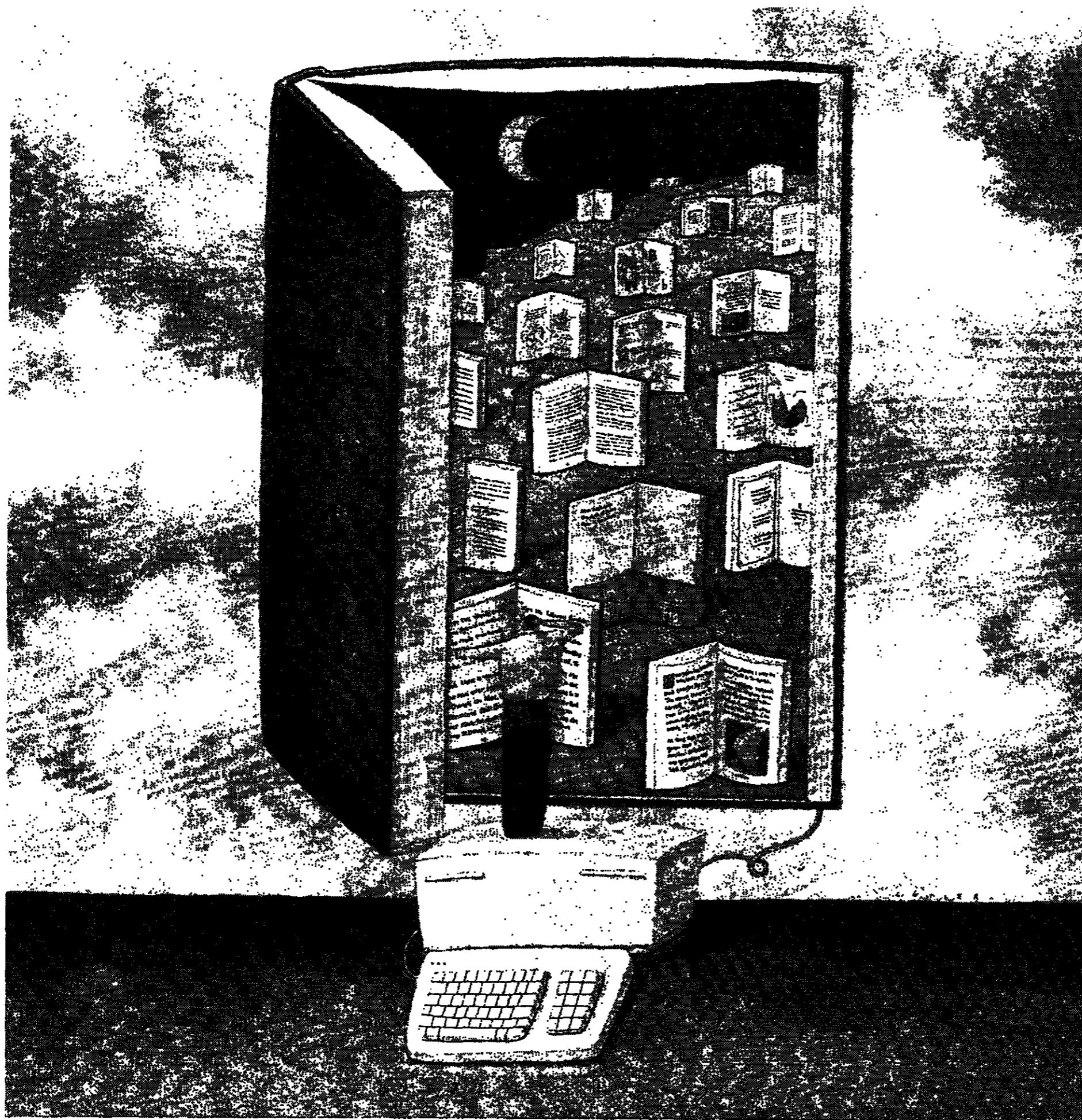
volved a butane gas cylinder connected to an electric circuit timer and gas lighter which was then placed inside a plastic bin liner. It was planned on February 1996 out-

to ignite the escaping gas. Police believe the device, which was spotted in time by a refuse collector, would have created a lethal fireball.

Another device adopted by Pearce was a "shotgun bomb" which involved placing a length of copper piping on a concrete base which with the use of a timing device would fire a cartridge. Other adaptations of the shotgun bomb involved the tubing being packed with panel pins or ball bearings.

Pearce had converted his greenhouse into a workshop for his bombmaking activities. When police finally raided the property they found six gas cylinders and a dozen 12 volt batteries, further devices and two crossbows.

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BALKANS WAR: POLICY DOUBTS

Albright made US scapegoat



The Secretary of State is being accused of misreading Milosevic. Ben Macintyre reports from Washington

Madeleine Albright, the hawkish US Secretary of State, has come under heavy fire in America for misreading President Milosevic and plunging America into a war in the Balkans without a

As the Nato bombardment continues, the US media have turned on Ms Albright as the principal American architect of that policy, accusing her of following an agen-

ing her of following an agenda based more on wishful thinking and personal inclination than diplomatic and military realities.

The wave of recrimination has raised the issue of whether Ms Albright can long re-

trary shown by another "bully" in Iraq.

That Mr Milosevic might hunker down through the air attacks while accelerating his onslaught in Kosovo was considered by Ms Albright and her advisers to be

er Ms Albright can long retain her office if Mr Milosevic cannot be removed from his.

By Michael J. Hill

bright and her advisers to be the least likely of scenarios. One official has described the Yugoslav conflict as "Albright's war."

"Albright misjudged Milošević on Kosovo," declared an untypically stark headline in *The Washington Post* yesterday, in which the Secretary of State was accused of basing US policy on the mistaken belief that the Serb

taken belief that the Serb leader would back down either before, or very soon after, Nato resorted to force. "These miscalculations about the efficacy of the threat... have led the United States and its allies into an air war in Europe that has produced some of the same negative consequences they said they were trying to head off," the newspaper stated.

Desperate for a foreign policy success to compare with that of Richard Holbrooke, with whom she has often jostled over US policy in the Balkans, Ms Albright intended the peace talks at Rambouillet in France to be her own version of the Dayton accords and the apogee of her diplomatic career.

"Everyone in Albright's

"Everyone in Albright's circle is very conscious of how anxious she is to have a victory to call her own. Instead, she now has a calamity of her own," wrote the columnist Arianna Huffington.

that led to the bombardment. "We will have plenty of time to go back and look at what we did or did not do... I am completely focused on what we are doing now," she said on Tuesday.

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BALKANS WAR: SERB REACTION

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Yugoslavia stamps its defiance

Belgrade mocks
Nato with a
postal flourish,
Tom Walker in
Belgrade writes

YUGOSLAVIA issued an anti-Nato stamp yesterday in a mark of protest at the allied airstrikes against its towns and cities.

The stamp depicts a bull's eye — the logo of Serb demonstrators. Beneath it is written "target", a capital "A" to denote the first in the series, and "Yugoslavia" in Cyrillic.

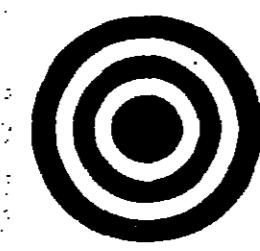
"We have had a huge number delivered and we are expecting more designs," said a cashier in Belgrade's main post office in Takosova Street last night. She said the stamps had no recent precedent, but philatelists in the city recalled the issue of a special series during the Second World War, when Belgrade was last bombed.

The stamp does not denote a denominating value of the dinar. It can be used only domestically since all international mail deliveries have ceased. At yesterday's value, 50 stamps were selling for 102 dinars, or roughly £3.50.

The second issue in the series will feature an F117 Stealth bomber, the only US plane downed so far in the air war. The Stealth motif has already featured on a postcard from Budjanovic, where it came down. On the reverse side a message reads: "If undelivered, please return to the White House".

The bull's eye motif adorns T-shirts, baseball caps and badges. The more chic Belgraders also attach it to their pets as they take them for walks in the shopping district.

As in the winter of 1996,



The first postage stamp in the anti-Nato series

The issue of the stamps came after a bleak day for the Yugoslav postal system: earlier, state television showed pictures from Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, where the main post office had apparently been destroyed by a rogue Nato missile.

The country's telephone system is just coping, although the small mobile network service in Kosovo has ground to a halt after Nato destroyed a vital transmitter. Landlines are coming under increasing strain, and connections to friendly countries like Greece, Russia and Ukraine tend to be better and easier. All links with Britain went down for 24 hours last night.

The bombing of bridges in the northern city of Novi Sad has also severed some communications networks, and there are fears that Yugoslavia's few Internet service providers might soon fold. With the postal system almost non-existent, bills cannot be posted.

The television network is similarly threatened, and the state-run Radio Television Serbia now relies on the frequencies of other stations in towns and cities to broadcast its message. In many rural areas, there is no longer any television service.

Sources in Radio Television Serbia say they fear that the station's headquarters in central Belgrade could be targeted by Nato missiles, although the building is located in a more built-up area than the Interior Ministry, which was destroyed by a twin batch of Tomahawks last weekend.



Yugoslavs protesting at Nato raids display the bull's eye logo which they have adopted as their anti-war symbol

Nationalist demagogue thrives on catastrophe

Power struggle
pits Serb
against Serb,
writes Eve-Ann
Prentice

NATO'S rejection of Yugoslavia's ceasefire offer in Kosovo is likely to fuel a vicious battle now under way in Belgrade, one which pits Serb against Serb.

For the alliance bombing is helping to bolster the power of a former paramilitary leader said to be mentally scarred after being tortured and allegedly raped by Muslim prisoners when he served a jail sentence in his native Sarajevo.

Vojislav Seselj, the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister who counts among his friends Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian nationalist extremist, and Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French far-right leader, is determined to "cleanse" Serbia of the moderates and democrats he denounces as traitors and fifth columnists.

Masked men in the pay of Mr Seselj and his Radical Party are believed to be behind a campaign of beatings and intimidation aimed at ridding the country of human rights

activists and champions of democracy. The victims include lawyers, journalists and intellectuals, many of whom have fled to Hungary.

Mr Seselj fosters a belief that the Nato bombings are largely the fault of moderates and his power base is spreading at the expense of politicians such as Vuk Draskovic, his counterpart in the federal Yugoslav Government. It was Mr Draskovic who on Tuesday announced the Kosovo ceasefire offer and even Downing Street recognises that his star is waning, saying that he has "zero power".

Although Mr Seselj has in the past denounced Mrs Markovic and her party are closely allied to her United Yugoslav Left movement.

A skilful manipulator of his audiences, Mr Seselj employs the same tactics as Mr Zhirinovsky, making promises of money to those who have been hardest hit by sanctions — the mass of Serbian workers and pensioners.

Born in Sarajevo in 1950, Mr Seselj was reported to be the brightest student of political science of his generation at Sarajevo University. However, he seems to have undergone a personality change after being jailed for 22 months in 1984, after the discovery of a "counter-revolutionary" document written by him. The manuscript, which was never published, advocated a multi-party system and the ending of republic status for Bosnia and Montenegro. Bosnia was too Muslim, he wrote in his treatise, while Montenegro was so full of Serbs that it should just be a natural part of Serbia. It was while serving his sentence that he was certainly tortured and allegedly raped by fellow prisoners. During the wars in Croatia and Bosnia, Mr Seselj led one of the two most feared paramilitary groups, the other being headed by Arkan.

Now Mr Milosevic faces a crucial choice — whether to throw in his lot with Mr Seselj, or to shore up the flagging support for Mr Draskovic. Clearly there is no longer room for both men in Serbia's corridors of power.

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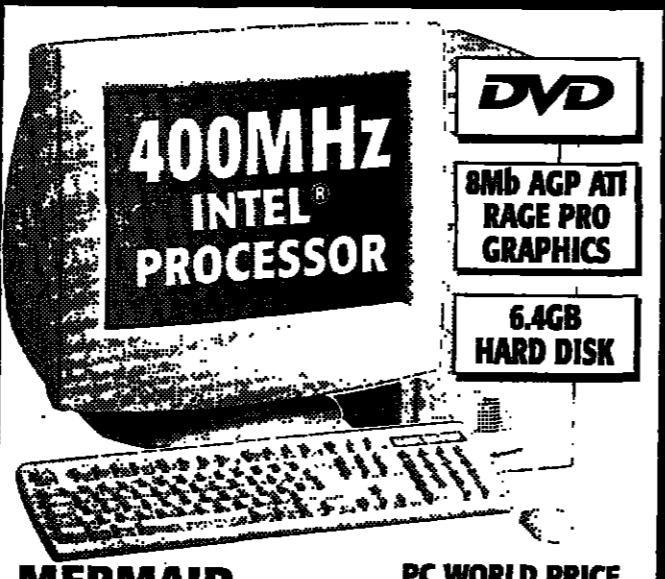
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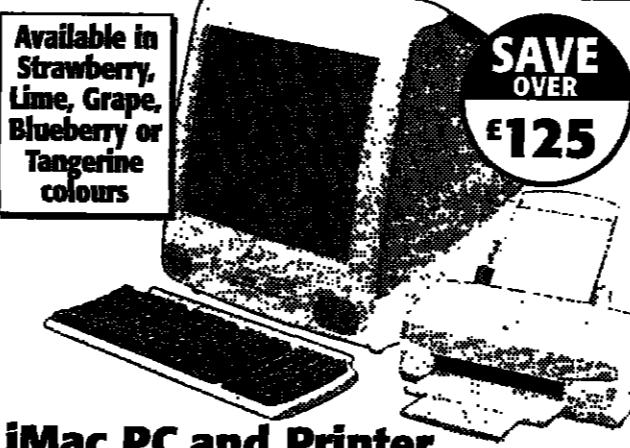


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Teenage girl dies in new danger sport

BY ADRIAN LEE AND ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A BRITISH schoolgirl has died in Australia while "canyoning", an adventure sport that involves swimming through fast-flowing river gorges.

Siobhan Halls, 17, drowned in the Blue Mountains area, about 50 miles west of Sydney, where she was on holiday. She is believed to have hit her head on a rock. Her father, Richard, said yesterday that she was not wearing a safety helmet.

The relatively new activity has claimed several lives. It is recognised as one of the most dangerous of the "white-knuckle" activities, which include bungee jumping and white-water rafting. Canyoning involves following the path of a river by swimming, scrambling over rocks and abseiling down waterfalls.

Mr Halls, who runs a stable, said his daughter was a keen horse-rider who was aware of the dangers of head injuries. "She would never ride without a helmet — that is what surprises me."

Miss Halls, from Steppings, Bedfordshire, was with two male friends when the accident happened in the Mount Wilson area, near the town of Katoomba, where a network of creeks have cut deep, narrow gorges into the rock.

Her companions, both Australians, told police that they were swept away during the expedition along the Wollangambie River on Monday. They managed to drag themselves out of the swirling water but became separated from Miss Halls.

She had travelled to Sydney with her mother, Jean, for a five-week holiday and was staying with an aunt. The two young men involved were friends of the family.

Bryan's Eye, page 49



Twin drowned after coastguard dinghy warning

BY MICHAEL HORNELL



Hayley Butler: her twin sister made it ashore

GIRL who drowned when her inflatable toy dinghy was swept out to sea died only hours after a warning by coastguards of the danger.

Hayley Butler, 12, is believed to have jumped out when the dinghy was about 10 metres from the shore in an attempt to swim to safety against the tide.

Her twin sister, Hannah, and a cousin, also 12, got back to the beach at the small Lincolnshire resort of Huttoft, near Mablethorpe. But, as her parents watched helplessly, Hayley sank within five minutes while clutching a plastic paddle.

After an incident involving two people in a dinghy the day before, coastguards had given warnings on local radio and in regional newspapers that inflatable dinghies were too flimsy and unstable to be taken into the sea.

The dead girl's mother, Tricia, 44, said: "Hayley was just a jolly kid. She was very good to the elderly neighbours near us. She was a very popular member of her class at school. We were just having a family afternoon on the beach with the kids when this happened." The girl, whose father died

several years ago, had lived with her mother, stepfather, twin sister and brother, Dean, in Mablethorpe since moving from Derby eight years ago.

By last night her body had still not been found but the dinghy was recovered 90 minutes after the incident, four miles off shore.

John Harrison, the Lincolnshire sector manager for HM Coastguard, said: "It's foolhardy using an inflatable dinghy at sea. During the summer we go along the beaches pleading with people not to go out in inflatables but they ignore us and some of them end up dead."

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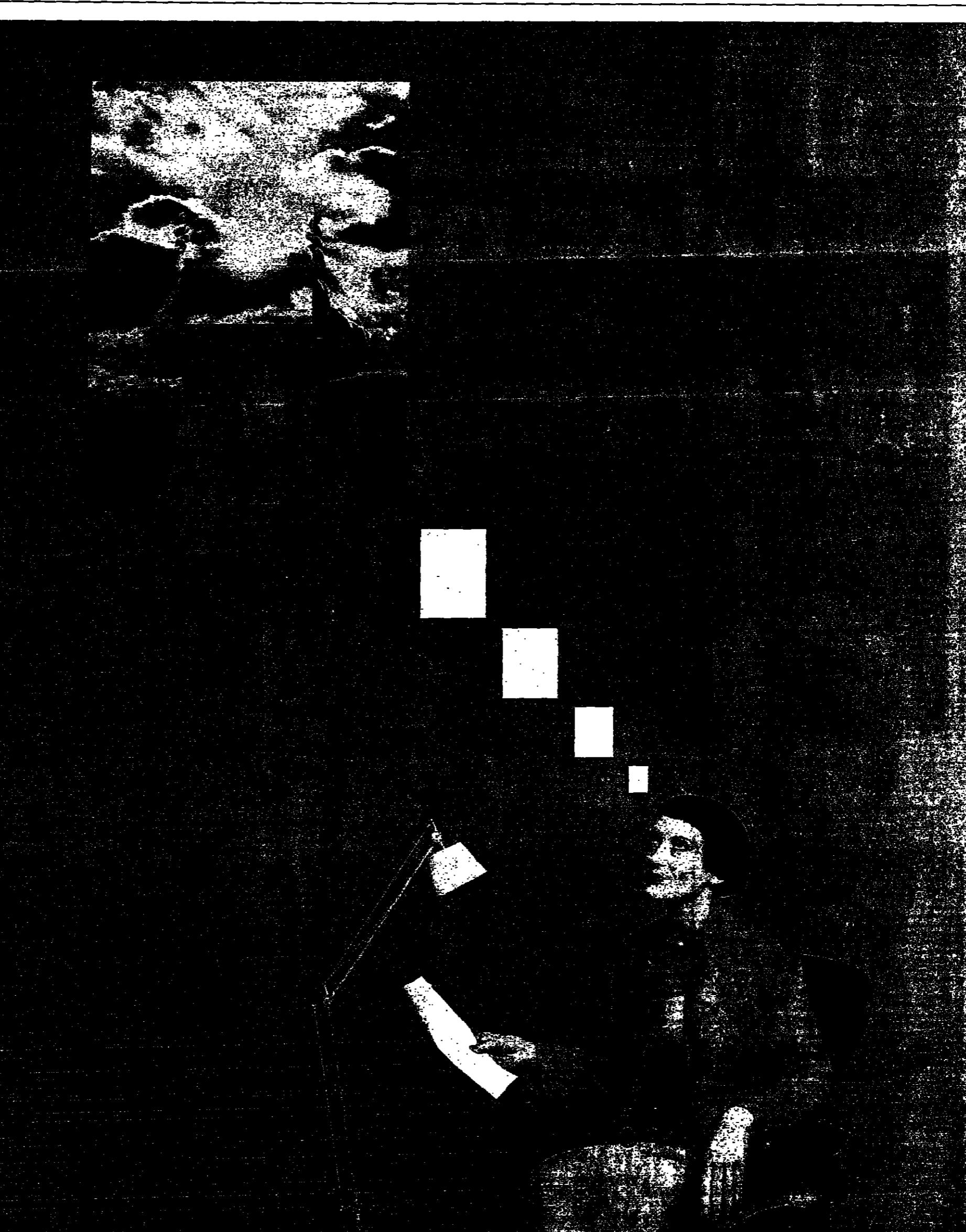
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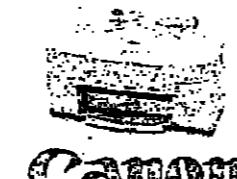
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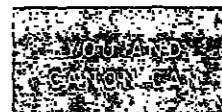
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Mobile phones 'quicken the brain'

OFFICIAL: MOBILE PHONES SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS

Radiation zaps your nervous system says new Government study

DEEPMALA

Critics have blamed mobile phones for stress and cancer

Scientists allay memory loss fears but want more research on brain hot spot, reports Nigel Hawkes

MOBILE telephones do not damage memory, although they do have one unexpected effect: quicker reaction times.

This could be caused by localised heating in one part of the brain and needs further investigation, according to a study ordered by the Government in response to fears about the safety of mobile phones.

If the heating is caused by microwave emissions, the study team at Bristol University said, it could have long-term health effects. This is because the body produces heat-shock proteins as a normal response to heating, and the long-term effect of such proteins in the brain is not known.

Contrary to earlier press reports, the study, published in the *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, found no effect on short-term memory in 36 volunteers subjected to half-hour bursts of microwave radiation mimicking mobile telephones.

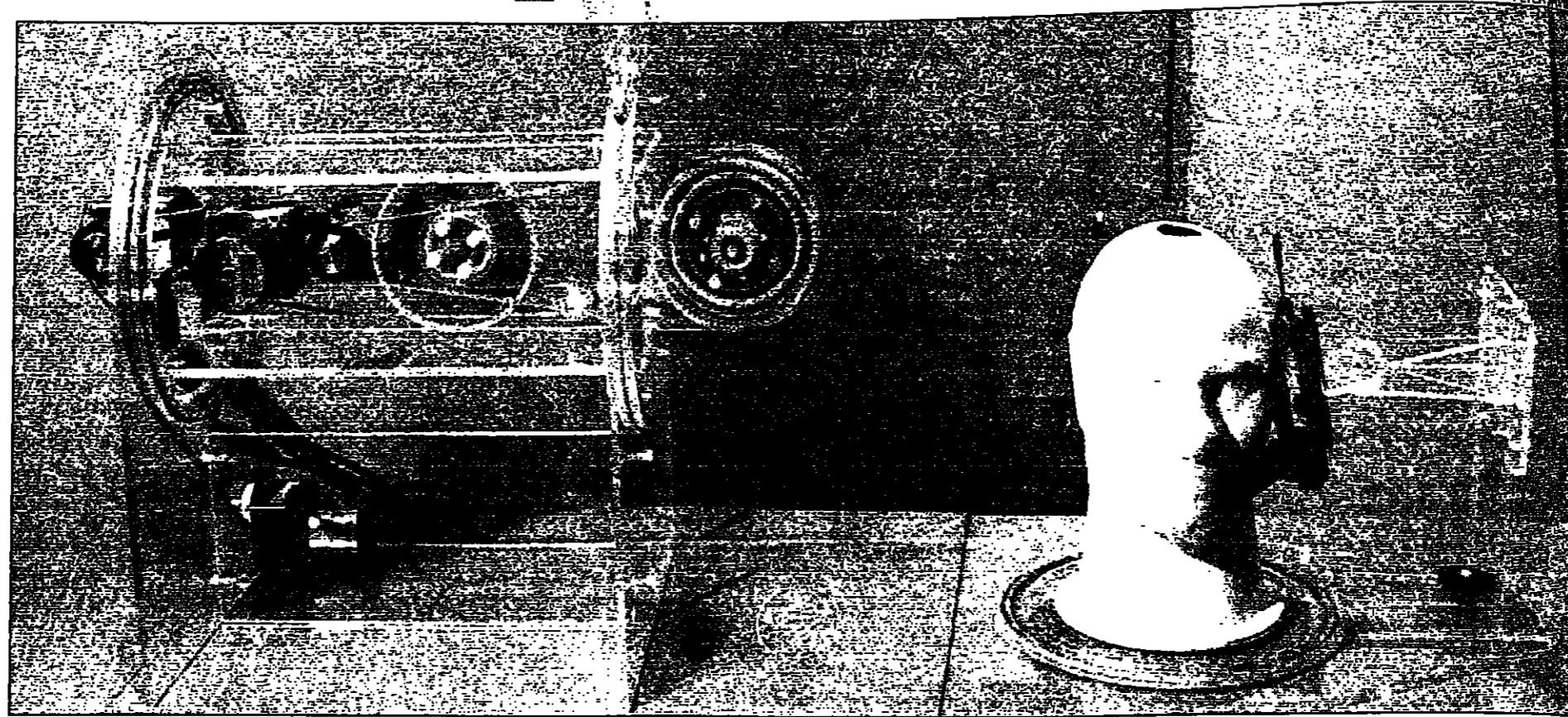
The volunteers had devices simulating the microwave out-

put of mobile telephones clamped on their left ears, placing them close to the areas of the brain that control language. They were shown words and pictures on a computer screen and tested for how well they recalled them.

The results show that recall was not affected by whether or not the device was turned on. Nor were any changes found in tests for spatial awareness or attention.

The experiments did show a small improvement in reaction times. The words "yes" and "no" were flashed on to the screen and the volunteers had to react by pressing a matching button. When the headset was switched on and mimicking an analogue telephone, reaction times improved by 4 per cent.

Although this change is small, it occurred in two groups of volunteers and is unlikely to be a chance finding. A similar trend was observed with digital signals but was not statistically significant.



A plastic head is used to show the effect of a mobile telephone on human brain tissue. The government-backed study found localised heating but the cause was not clear

Alan Preece, the project leader, said that the suspect heating was "mild" but said that further tests were required. His team has already begun testing to see if the microwave transmissions can affect blood flow and to learn more about the cause of the heating.

His suggestion of a heating effect is controversial as telephone firms say that there is insufficient microwave power from mobile telephones to pro-

duce such an effect. They say that if there is any heating, some other mechanism must be at work.

The study was funded by the Department of Health and by trustees of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust. It was carried out amid fears that mobile telephones may cause stress, memory loss or even cancer.

The volunteers did not know if the telephones were switched

on or off, or if they were emitting analogue or digital signals. Dr Preece and colleagues speculate that the signals may be having an effect on the angular gyrus, a ridge-shaped part of the cerebral cortex of the brain which acts as an interface between the visual and speech centres and which lies under and on the same side as a mobile telephone.

"Such an effect could be consistent with mild, localised

heating or possibly a non-thermal response which is, nevertheless, power-dependent," the team concludes. The effect of the microwaves seems to be to speed the flow of electrical signals through the angular gyrus but it remains unclear why this should happen.

Although the effect is not damaging, opponents of mobile telephones are likely to use it as evidence that the phones affect the brain. If an apparently beneficial effect can exist, then a damaging one is equally possible.

Devices sold to protect mobile telephone users against microwaves offer some benefits but at the cost of worse reception, tests commissioned from the National Physical Laboratory by *New Scientist* have shown.

The laboratory tested the Microshield and Oyster Radiation Eliminator. They used two mobile telephones: a Nokia 2110 and Motorola MR30. Field strength was tested inside a head made of a human skull covered in mock flesh.

When the telephones were used with their antennae down the Microshield cut the field strength inside the head by 34 per cent for the MR30, and 17 per cent for the Nokia, while the Oyster cut the field by 48 per cent with the Nokia, and 16 per cent with the MR30. With the antennae up, both devices were less effective and made reception worse.

The best way to limit the brain's exposure, the magazine concludes, is to use a "hands-free" set which enables the telephone to be worn on a belt. This cuts exposure to the brain by 94 per cent with no loss of reception, but other parts of the body are exposed to microwaves.

SYMPTOMS AND RESEARCH

Cancer

In 1997 researchers at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia spent 18 months exposing mice to microwave radiation at the intensity and frequency emitted by digital mobile phones. Twice as many mice developed lymphomas, a cancer of the lymph system, as those not exposed. But three other teams have tried and failed to replicate the result. In the latest study, scientists at Brooks Air Force Base in Texas exposed mice genetically engineered to be susceptible to breast tumours to microwaves for 20 hours a day for 18 months, but saw no increase in cancer rates. Michael Repacholi, who is co-ordinating research for the World Health Organisation into the health effects of electromagnetic radiation, told *New Scientist* that he is reserving judgment on his study until it can be replicated. "If they don't come up with the same result, that will be a happy outcome," he said.

Heating the brain

Claims that mobile phones can heat the brain have been treated sceptically until now. Even if true, the degree of heating would be much less than that achieved by mild exercise, and unlikely to have long-term effects. More worrying would be evidence that microwaves have a subtle and previously unknown effect on cells. Today's evidence from Bristol University hints at such an effect.

Research at Nottingham University, led by David de Pomerai, has shown that exposing nematode worms to microwaves produces heat-shock proteins. These are produced by cells in response to many kinds of stress in addition to heat. These experiments could not have generated sufficient heat to produce the heat-shock proteins, so Dr de Pomerai believes there may be a separate mechanism at work.

DNA damage

Henry Lai, of the University of Washington in Seattle, claimed in 1995 that rats exposed to microwaves showed breaks in their DNA of the kind caused by carcinogenic chemicals or X-rays. If so, one would expect microwaves to cause cancer if exposure lasted long enough. But two teams — in St Louis, Missouri, and Belgium — have since failed to replicate the result. The World Health Organisation is now spending \$6 million, partly funded by mobile phone firms, on an epidemiological study that will compare 3,000 brain tumour patients with 3,000 controls to see if there is any difference in their mobile phone use.

Headaches and tiredness

A study from Sweden last year showed that people who made frequent mobile phone calls were more likely to complain of headaches and tiredness. But people's expectations can colour such studies. Users in Norway, where mobile phone fears had been publicised, were twice as likely to complain than those in Sweden, where fewer such stories appeared in the media.

'Corrie' makes US debut 38 years on

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

CORONATION STREET is finally to be shown in America 38 years after the first episode was broadcast.

Television executives are confident that the regulars of the Rover's Return, who say "by 'eck", eat hotpot and drink pints of Newton and Ridley bitter, will conquer an American audience raised on more glamorous epics such as *Dallas* and *Dynasty*.

A deal was announced yesterday between Granada Media International, part of Granada Television which makes and produces *Coronation Street*, and Trio, the drama, documentaries and film channel in the United States which is broadcast nationally on satellite and cable.

American viewers will join the show during its 1994 episodes when Tania, a barmaid at the Rover's, embarks on a torrid affair with the local Romeo, Des Barnes (now deceased in the soap), behind his girlfriend's back. Executives decided they could not risk going further back than this because fashions and hairstyles would have been too outdated for 1999.

A spokeswoman for Granada Media International said: "We had to find a suitable point to start where the storyline was dramatic enough to hook a new audience but where people's clothes wouldn't look too odd."

The soap, which has been running in Britain for 38 years, has been sold to more than 35 countries.

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Luke Bettelley with his parents, Jill and David. The boy was given two days to live

Mother makes history to save her son from death

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A BOY whose life was saved by the donation of part of his mother's liver — a transplant that made British medical history — was doing well in hospital yesterday. Luke Bettelley, 18 months old, was "laughing and smiling and throwing his toys around", his father, David, said.

A month earlier, Luke had been given less than two days to live. His mother, Jill, from Woking in West Sussex, immediately volunteered to give part of her own liver even though it put her at risk. "I could have died on the operating table, but that didn't even cross my mind," she said. "My

only concern was for Luke and what I could do for him."

Unlike other organs, the liver can regenerate, so it is possible to remove part of the donor's liver and give it to the patient. But in past such operations in Britain, the patient has always suffered from chronic, rather than acute, liver failure. In Luke's case, he was already showing the first signs of headaches and delirium from acute liver failure when he was taken to King's College Hospital.

Mrs Bettelley, 32, pleaded to be allowed to be the donor. On March 5 surgeons spent four hours removing a third

of her liver, and another six hours transplanting it into Luke.

"This is a big operation and not without risk for the parent who becomes a donor," Nigel Heaton, the transplant surgeon, said. "It also puts the other parent under the most enormous stress."

Mohammed Rela, the consultant surgeon who carried out the operation, said: "In the absence of a suitable donor, Luke would certainly have died. Jill and David have both been marvellous throughout and were very brave and positive, which helped us do our job well."

Transplant boom raises prospect of divorce haggling

By HELEN RUMBLE



ORGAN donation between spouses will soon become part of divorce settlements, according to the surgeon who performed Britain's first liver, pancreas and intestine transplants. Sir Roy Calne predicted that husbands and wives who divorce will put a price on the cost of the organ they donated as an act of loving sacrifice.

"Thirty per cent of marriages end in divorce and if a spouse has given a kidney, you would expect that divorce settlements will start to question how much a kidney is worth," he said. "A wife who has donated an organ may say, 'what I gave to my husband represents certain per cent of his value'.

The big increase in organs obtained from living people is raising "one of the unique ethical concerns that have never been faced in medicine before".

As an example, Sir Roy suggested the moral confusion that might arise if the practice extended to estranged couples.

"If a wife is willing to donate an organ to her husband as part of a divorce settlement, that is acceptable as an emotionally concerned patient, or unacceptable as a compensated pa-

tient?" Live transplants in Britain had tripled recently as a result of the shortage of organs made available from people who die. The United Kingdom Transplant Support Service Authority recorded 89 live donor kidney transplants in 1991; by 1998 that figure had risen to an estimated 246.

Transplant surgery has become much more common since the introduction of more successful immune-suppression drugs in 1982. In 1975 there were ten liver transplants in Europe; 20 years later there were 3,266. Sir Roy said, however, that transplant surgery had been a victim of its own success: there were now 6,000 people in Britain on the waiting list for organs.

He was uncomfortable with the trend for live transplants because of the moral issues that might not be immediately obvious.

The best kind of transplant donor was the patient's brother or sister but "enormous pressure" might be put upon them behind the scenes, he told the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry in London. "It is not reasonable to regard it as a right to have a transplant; it isn't, it is a privilege. It may not be fair, when we know that brothers and sisters don't always love each other."

Sir Roy, Professor of Surgery Emeritus at Cambridge University, said that litigation was already beginning in America. The case of one engaged couple was still awaiting settlement.

Richard McNutt had told his fiancée that he had to delay their wedding plans until he received a kidney transplant. His intended, Dorothy Zawhar, persuaded her brother to donate one of his kidneys.

After the operation was successfully carried out in 1997, Mr McNutt married a nurse in the dialysis unit and Ms Zawhar sued her former fiancé, accusing him of "theft by swindle of body organ".

INSIDE SECTION 2

The Seven on
Eric Newby's classic
romantic-right

Los rebeldes from
novelist Erica Wagner
reviews Philip O'Casey's
historical novel

Plus pages 38, 39

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20545, Microsoft Office 20546, Microsoft Office 20547, Microsoft Office 20548, Microsoft



The murder suspects — from left, Jamie Acourt, Luke Knight, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Neil Acourt — were interviewed separately

Lawrence plea fails to keep suspects off TV

By CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE first interviews with the five men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence will be broadcast tonight despite protest from the black teenager's family.

The men will break their silence on *Tonight*, a new ITV current affairs programme, in a series of "rigorous interrogations" by the journalist Martin Bashir. Last night Granada TV executives were in discussions with the Lawrence family's lawyer, Imran Khan, over allowing the boy's parents, Doreen and Neville, to see the interviews prior to broadcast.

Tonight, the Editor of *Jeff Anderson*, insisted that the programme did not provide the men — Jamie and Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris — with a platform to protest their innocence. He said: "The programme includes significant

POLICE TO PAY £1M PROTECTION BILL

THE Home Secretary faced new protests over the Stephen Lawrence report yesterday after it emerged that the Metropolitan Police is forcing an extra £1 million bill arising from its bungled publication (Philip Webster writes). An appendix to the report inadvertently included the names and addresses of witnesses to the teenager's murder. It was hastily withdrawn and a witness protection and relocation scheme put in place. The responsibility for the oversight was admitted by the inquiry team, although the Home Office faced strong criticism for not spotting the blunder. Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, told Jack Straw last night that a great deal of the responsibility rested with him and his ministers.

new material that may open new avenues of inquiry for the police. However, we are confident that it will not prejudice any possible future prosecution. The programme is a rigorous and detailed interrogation of the five men and in no way provides them with a platform. No areas of questioning were off limits and no payment was asked for or made."

Mr and Mrs Lawrence have declared themselves "disgusted" by ITV's decision to give the men a voice. They considered organising a campaign to boycott the programme but are understood to have decided that such a strategy could backfire by drawing more attention. The Metropolitan Police has started legal proceedings under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act to gain access to all the tapes, which amount to several hours, whether or not they are used in the final

ed by Trevor McDonald, which is modelled on American television's *60 Minutes*. It was central to the network's argument that it would maintain its commitment to serious news and current affairs programming despite scrapping *News at Ten*.

Mr Bashir, who conducted the *Panorama* interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, and was accused of being overly sympathetic to the British au pair Louise Woodward when he interviewed her, is said to be "tough to the point of hostile" with the men. He insisted on interviewing them separately at a neutral location and the men were not allowed to confer with each other about questions they had been asked.

The Metropolitan Police has started legal proceedings under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act to gain access to all the tapes, which amount to several hours, whether or not they are used in the final

broadcast. None of the five has faced a full trial for the race murder. A private prosecution begun by the Lawrence family in 1995, after the Crown Prosecution Service had decided not to proceed, ended with three being acquitted at the Old Bailey after evidence was ruled inadmissible. Charges against the two others had been dropped.

Ros Howells, a friend of Mr and Mrs Lawrence, said: "These five men have had ample opportunity to say what they want to say at the inquest and at the judicial inquiry. At both they were told they were free to speak and they avoided answering the questions."

Last month, the men's mothers gave an interview to John Humphrys, of Radio 4's *Today* programme, in which they protested their sons' innocence and vowed to campaign to clear their names.

TV listings, page 51

Stabbing accused 'played up to camera'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MAN celebrating a friend's stag night was stabbed almost to death by a member of a group that was being videotaped by a film crew. Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday. The court was told that Paul Massey, 39, the alleged assailant, and three friends were under the influence of drink and excited by the attentions of the film makers when they attacked the party's minibus outside a night club. Peter Wright, for the

prosecution, said that Massey, of Salford, Manchester, smashed one of the vehicle's windows, chased it through the Manchester city centre, then stabbed 29-year-old Wayne Wisdom so badly that he needed eight litres of blood and plasma to save his life.

Massey, Gregory Hayes, 30, of Withington, Manchester; Mark Boomer, 34, of Blackley, Manchester; and Paul Flannery, 39, disorder in Manchester last July. Massey pleaded not guilty to

wounding Mr Wisdom with intent to do grievous bodily harm and Boomer denies assaulting a police officer with the intention of preventing Massey's arrest. The jury was told that an independent film crew had been following the four accused as they drove round Manchester in an Audi and a BMW. They used two cameras to film the group as they travelled around nightclubs behaving in a high-spirited and increasingly disorderly fashion. Mr Wright said that they were "playing up to the camera" and "a disaster waiting to happen".

Mr Wisdom was one of a party of more than 30 people from Leeds who had travelled to Manchester for the night. After the car chase, the court was told, Mr Wisdom was seen to headbutt Massey, and Massey was then seen to lunge towards Mr Wisdom with a knife in his hand. Mr Wright said that the jury would see film footage taken by the crew during the evening. The trial continues.

Anger at adviser's switch



The Scottish National Party accused Labour of "blurring the lines between government and party" yesterday following the appointment of a former Treasury civil servant to the Holyrood election campaign. Mike Russell, the SNP's chief executive, has demanded to know why Ed Milliband, who resigned his post as an adviser to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last week, is now working on Labour's Scottish campaign. Mr Russell added: "If Ed Milliband did resign last week, has he been guaranteed his old job back? It appears to be a matter of convenience." A Labour spokesman said that Mr Milliband resigned so that he could work in Scotland during the campaign and would not be paid from public funds or have any involvement in Treasury business while undertaking party work. "This is entirely consistent with Cabinet Office procedures," the spokesman added.

Brown brand SNP a 'high tax' party

BY JASON ALLARDICE AND GILLIAN HARRIS

GORDON BROWN stepped up Labour's Scottish election campaign yesterday by claiming that "dangerous" and "caring" nationalists would make poor Scots poorer.

The Chancellor said that the choice facing voters in the Scottish parliamentary election was between Labour's focus on enterprise and fairness and the Scottish National Party's high tax and incompetence.

Mr Brown, speaking in Glasgow, delivered one of his hardest-hitting attacks on the SNP so far. He said that its commitment to forego his joint income tax cut to invest in public services would "drive business away and cost jobs".

"Tax revenues would fall. Less money would be available for public services," he said. "The result would be to leave many people who work hard day in and day out still struggling to make ends meet while they pay more in taxes."

Mr Brown also attacked the SNP's refusal to support international action in Kosovo and said that the party "wouldn't take Scotland out of Nato".

Earlier, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, unveiled details of Labour's pledge and which includes:

- A Scottish drugs enforcement agency, which would seize the assets of suspected dealers without waiting for criminal convictions.
- No income tax rises during the first term of parliament.
- Twenty thousand modern apprenticeships.
- At least four modern centres for every Scottish constituency.
- New hospital developments and a 24-hour NHS direct telephone helpline.

The Liberal-Democrats manifesto published yesterday promised 2,000 more teachers and an end to university tuition fees for Scottish students. Jim Wallace, the party's Scottish leader, said that the penny tax cut would forego only if savings could not be made from the existing Scottish Office budget.

A question of address

Lord Steel of Alkwood took time out from his party's manifesto launch to praise the ingenuity of postal staff in the Scottish Borders who had delivered a mysteriously addressed letter to his home in Selkirk. The former Liberal leader awoke yesterday to find the missive from a woman in Warwickshire on his doormat addressed to "Mr David Steel, The Labour Party, Scotland". Someone in the postal sorting office had recognised the recipient and had scribbled Lord Steel's postcode on the envelope.

Greens slip on banana

The Scottish Green Party issued its first press release of the election campaign, condemning American intransigence in the banana war and calling for consumers to boycott bananas grown by the large commercial producers until the U.S. agrees to withdraw high tariffs on imports such as Scottish cashmere. Less than an hour later, the trade-war ended in an agreement. "We weren't aware that it was about to end," a party spokesman said. "However, it is good news."

'May sanity prevail'

Candidates for the Scottish parliament were urged not to follow Tony Blair's example and call each other "nutter", "nutters" or "crazy". Karen Prentice, of the Scottish Mental Health Association, said: "It is unacceptable for Tony Blair to talk of headbangers in the Shadow Cabinet, men in white coats, and lunatics taking over the asylum. Our language is still riddled with derogatory terms. Perhaps devolution will pave the way for a more polite and enlightened parliament."

Quote of the day

Jim Wallace, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, launching his party's election manifesto:

"Education is the key to Scotland's future. Without high quality education Scotland will not be able to compete in a world economy. The Scottish Liberal-Democrats' commitment to Scotland's education system will restore us to world class levels."

AGENDA

Today: The Prime Minister, on a two-day visit to Scotland, is travelling to Lossiemouth on board Labour's battleship. Paddy Ashdown is attending a press conference in Edinburgh before going to St Andrews with the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Jim Wallace.

The SNP launches its manifesto in Edinburgh and the Conservatives open their election campaign in Edinburgh.

The Liberal-Democrats' manifesto published yesterday promises 2,000 more teachers and an end to university tuition fees for Scottish students. Jim Wallace, the party's Scottish leader, said that the penny tax cut would forego only if savings could not be made from the existing Scottish Office budget.

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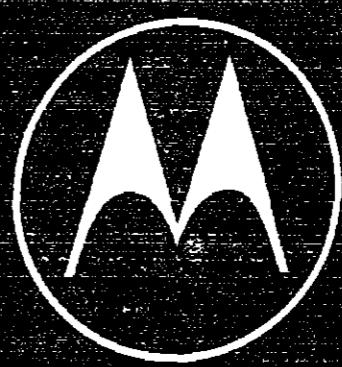
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Beijing smiles amid spy row

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN WASHINGTON

A CHARM offensive in the US by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, hit its first serious obstacle yesterday, despite a vaunted breakthrough on trade, when the Energy Department abruptly announced it was stopping scientific work on computers at three nuclear weapons laboratories after allegations that China has stolen secret nuclear technology.

The espionage row is only one of several tense issues hanging over the nine-day visit by Mr Zhu, the first by a Chinese Prime Minister in 15 years. Since President Clinton's breakthrough trip to China last summer, relations have steadily deteriorated, with disputes over human rights, China's vast trade deficit and most recently the bombardment of Yugoslavia.

Following Mr Zhu's arrival in Washington yesterday, Mr Clinton delivered a conciliatory address in which he said that bringing China into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was firmly in the interests of the US.

Mr Zhu also tried to start his tour in Los Angeles on a jocular and positive note, announcing the lifting of a ban on some US agricultural products as a "breakthrough" in negotiations for Beijing to join the WTO and joking about the spying charges.

The 70-year-old Chinese Prime Minister, who will visit six American cities, told a California audience of China's plans to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the People's Republic next October with a display of the latest military technology, and drew astonished



A Chinese interpreter joins the laughter at a joke by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, during a welcoming reception in Los Angeles

gasps by adding: "These weapons were developed by China itself, not stolen from the US."

Mr Zhu's wit appeared somewhat misplaced, however, when *The New York Times* reported the suspension of scientific work on computers at nuclear weapons laboratories in Los Alamos, Sandia and

Lawrence-Livermore. Thousands of scientists reliant on the computers containing the most secret files would cease normal work and instead attend training courses on computer security, officials said.

Last March Wen Ho Lee, a Taiwanese-born scientist at Los Alamos, Sandia and

legedly breaching security at the laboratory after a three-year investigation by the FBI.

At a banquet, Mr Zhu dismissed the growing crop of disputes as "nothing more than a small episode in the long history of friendly relations between China and the US". To begin his tour in the right vein,

Mr Zhu announced a lifting of the ban on wheat imports from seven US states and citrus fruits from four states.

This agreement is the most important part of China's bid to enter the WTO," Mr Zhu said, adding that he was confident that other areas of disagreement would be ironed out to allow China into the body regulating international trade.

China has been seeking admission to the WTO for 13 years, and Mr Clinton struck a similar note of optimism about the chances of reaching an agreement, although the White House said "substantial" gaps remained.

Scholars pinpoint lost Galilee village

Jerusalem: As up to four million pilgrims prepare for a millennium visit to the Holy Land, a site has been identified close to the Sea of Galilee that will enable them to transport themselves back to the time of Jesus. (Christopher Walker writes).

The Jerusalem Post reported that a mound 1½ miles north of the sea has been accepted "by a growing scholarly consensus" as the site of the lost village of Bethsaida.

Fugitive Russian tycoon 'to return'

FROM ANNA BLUNDY
IN MOSCOW

BORIS BEREZOVSKY, the fugitive Russian billionaire and former Kremlin power-broker, said yesterday that he would return to Moscow next week to see prosecutors and did not fear being detained despite an arrest warrant against him.

Mr Berezovsky, who is wanted on corruption charges, told a news conference at a Paris hotel that he blamed a warrant issued for his arrest on Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister.

He said he had no quarrel with President Yeltsin, but feared that Mr Primakov was attempting improperly to use his post

to influence Mr Yeltsin, the media and the Russian secret services.

Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General who was suspended by Mr Yeltsin last week, confirmed that warrants had been issued for Mr Berezovsky's arrest.

The billionaire was dismissed as executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States last week. He said the authorities stopped his private plane from entering Russian air space, preventing him from attending the meeting.

It is widely assumed that the warrant for Mr Berezovsky's arrest, and that of Aleksandr Smolensky, creator of the bank SBS-Agro, also announced this week, is linked to the power struggle between the

Government and Mr Skuratov. Mr Smolensky is in Austria.

One of the main charges against Mr Berezovsky concerns his dealings with Aeroflot. Millions of pounds of the airline's profits are said to have been hidden in a Swiss bank account under the name of a company called Andava.

Vadim Okulov, the Director of Aeroflot and Mr Yeltsin's son-in-law, has so far cooperated with investigations into the case, but it will be difficult for him to claim that he was ignorant of the disappearance of such vast sums. If Mr Okulov is implicated, the scandal will directly involve the Yeltsin family and is likely to destabilise Russia's political situation further.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Three Rwandan ex-ministers held

Africa: Three former Rwandan government ministers implicated in the 1994 genocide of 800,000 people have been arrested exactly five years after the slaughter began, officials at the United Nations tribunal sitting in Tanzania said. The three were arrested in Cameroon. They include Jerome Bicamumpaka, the former Foreign Minister who justified the murders at the UN, and Justin Mugenzi, the former Commerce Minister, who allegedly urged Hutus in a series of radio broadcasts to "kill all the Tutsis". The third suspect is Prosper Mugiraneza, who ran Rwanda's civil service in the interim government set up in the first days of the genocide. (Reuters)

Delayed homecoming

South Korea: A South Korean soldier listed as killed in action during the Korean War has returned home after fleeing the North, the South's National Intelligence Agency said. Sohn Jae Soo, 67, who said he was captured by Chinese troops in 1950, escaped from the North last October and arrived here with his wife, daughter and two North Korean defectors through an unidentified third country. (AFP)

Borneo mob fired on

Indonesia: Thousands of Malay and Dayak villagers, demanding the release of those jailed after earlier violence against Madurese migrants, rioted when outnumbered Indonesian forces fired on them. More than a dozen people were killed in Singkawang in Indonesian Borneo. Witnesses said troops fired warning shots but the mob surged forward. In Maluku, eastern Indonesia, religious rioting flared between Christians and Muslims. (AP)

Bullets overcome sword

New York: Commuters dived for cover as police shot and wounded a man waving a samurai sword at a crowded railway station (James Bone writes). Charles Stevens, 55, who had stopped taking his medication for schizophrenia, ended a stand-off with police on the Long Island Railroad by lunging at them with a 3ft sword. Police responded by opening fire, hitting Stevens eight times. Five passengers received minor injuries in the incident.

Blast at Franco's tomb

Spain: An explosion has damaged Franco's tomb in Spain's Valley of the Fallen, a huge mausoleum carved out of a hillside near here, a fire brigade official said. No one was hurt in the blast, which damaged the area around the altar. The Marxist guerrilla group, October First Anti-Fascist Resistance Group (Grapo), claimed responsibility for the attack. (Reuters)

Hun Sen backs down

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, the Cambodian Prime Minister, said the country would allow foreign judges and prosecutors to take part in the trial of the Khmer Rouge leader, Ta Mok, to ensure the process meets international standards. The new policy reverses his earlier stand that a trial must be under Cambodian law even though the judicial system is not up to the task. (Reuters)

Police aim to please

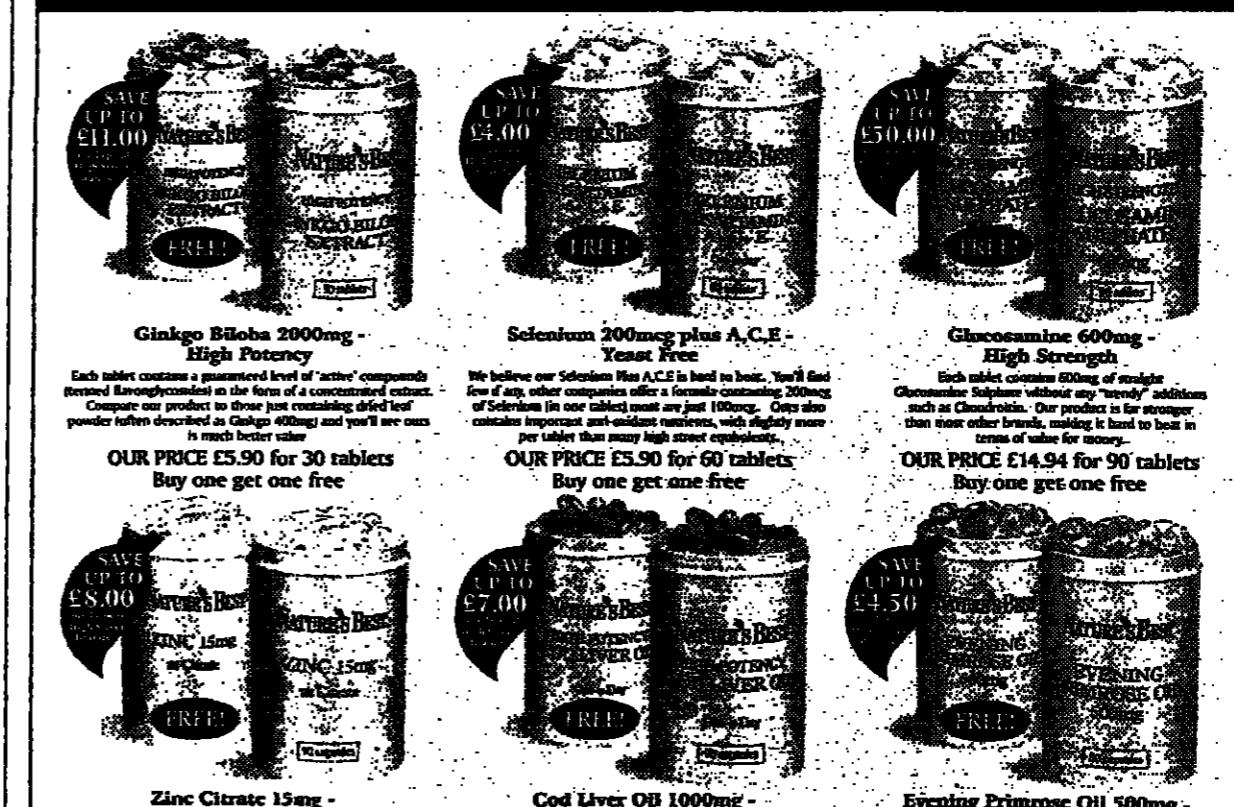
New York: The Big Apple's gun-toting police will in future be yelling, "Freeze, please" (James Bone writes). Amid growing protests about police brutality, the New York Police Department has launched a politeness drive and ordered officers to carry a card reminding them to call members of the public "Mr" or "Ma'am", and to address teenagers as "young lady" or "young man".

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NATURE'S BEST

Health for Life



Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on new treatment for scarring; why the solar eclipse in August is worrying ophthalmologists; Bruce Chatwin and the truth about his fungal disease; the benefits of eating tomatoes; and research that links long-term oesophagitis and cancer

Healing the scars of war

The recent *Times* headline "Air raids scar city of culture on the Danube" applies not only to the damaged bridges of Novi Sad but also to the human casualties. It is easier to restore the burnt bridges and houses that have been burnt than it is to recreate the various layers of the epidermis and dermis — that form human skin.

Regrettably, many of those burnt or wounded will be scarred for life but war casualties of the future may fare better thanks to research being conducted in Britain. An application for a patent for burns treatment being processed in London may ultimately benefit — through restoration of their appearance — those who suffer burns during wartime.

A research team directed by Dr Claire Linge, working for the charity RAFT (Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust) at Mount Vernon Hospital in Middlesex, has applied for a patent for a secret remedy for hypertrophic (overgrown) scarring — the type of scarring that affects 30 per cent of adult burns victims and between 40 and 60 per cent of children who suffer similar injuries. Scarring, though, is not confined to burn damage; other causes include accidents, surgery and even skin diseases, including acne. Nearly three million people in the UK have a facial scar, and a similar number have one more than six inches long. More than two million have scars that upset them.

Once the British team has obtained the patent rights, it hopes to start on further experimental work. Within two or three years this should lead to clinical trials and, later, the introduction of modi-

The most common cause of serious scarring is surgery

fied treatment that will give victims who would otherwise have had red, raised, itchy, painful and disfiguring scars less unsightly flat white ones.

The most common cause of serious scarring is surgery; it gives rise to 37 per cent of all significant scars, with the most prevalent site being the abdomen. Most people can remember inspecting the scars of schoolmates who had returned from hospital, but the surgeon is interested, too, and is apt to exhibit his handiwork to those prepared to pause by the bedside.

The best surgeons leave the neatest scars but they may be defeated by a patient's skin type. If a patient has a tendency to have a hypertrophic scar — red and raised rather than flat and white — not much can be done about it. The injection of a corticosteroid, triamcinolone acetonide, may flatten some, while various forms of Silastic gel sheeting may make them less prominent.

A small percentage of patients have been helped by more exotic treatments. Recently a doctor in India tried injecting papaya juice into these scars. It was a small, uncontrolled trial but the juice seemed to be effective in reducing the scar in some, but not all, of the cases. The long-term effect is unknown.

There seems to be no definable genetic reason why some people develop hypertrophic scars and others do not, and in some patients only part of the scar may be hypertrophic; in a long scar there may be a comparatively scarless break in its continuity.

There is, however, another form of unattractive scarring, keloid scarring, which is genetic and affects certain races. In some races, more

than 70 per cent of those injured form keloid (from the Greek meaning "tumour-like") scars. This is a hypertrophic scar gone mad.

The keloid scar is red and raised, shiny and hard, and it grows and grows, extending beyond the original cut or puncture wound. Dr Linge knew of one case in which a young girl had her ear lobe pierced and ended up with a lump of scar tissue the size of a tennis ball. She hopes that the new Mount Vernon treatment might be extended to help keloid sufferers and wants to secure funding for this research.

• RAFT, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 2RN. Telephone: 01923 835815. Scar Information Service, PO Box 2003, Hull, HU3 4DJ. Telephone: 0845 120022.

National Institute for the Blind, the Royal College of Ophthalmology, the Royal Greenwich Observatory, the Department of Health and a host of other organisations are doing their best to reduce the incidence of eye damage, which seems as inevitable as burns on Guy Fawkes night.

The organisation Fight for Sight, which was launched at the

Institute of Ophthalmology, flying over an American schoolboy as a terrible example of how sight can be lost by not taking precautions. He used a viewing device, previously recommended, to see a partial eclipse of the Sun last year in North Carolina. It gave inadequate protection and he now has a sight-destroying black scar on the retina of his left eye.

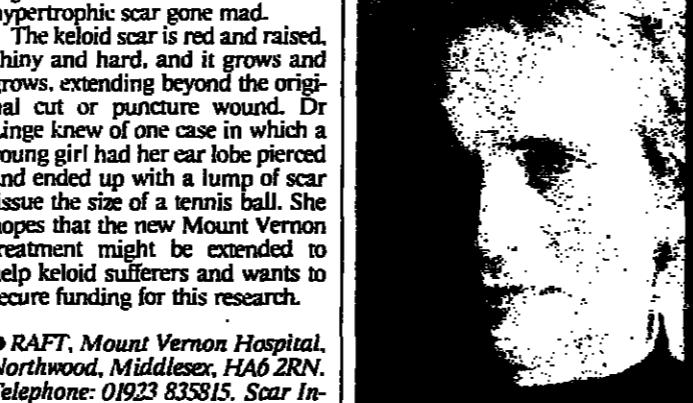
A BBC weather forecaster, also worried about eye injury, wanted to demonstrate, when we last had a partial eclipse in the UK, the damage which could be done to a sheep's eye. It was considered too gruesome to broadcast.

Over-exposure to the Sun's rays causes two types of damage photochemical, also known as phototoxicity, and photothermal retinal

injury. Phototoxicity is the result of exposure to excessive ultraviolet light; it can be temporary. Photothermal retinal injury is the result of infra-red damage in which photo-coagulation destroys the rods and cones of the retina, leaving permanent scarring.

At the moment there is no accepted treatment. If the viewer looks straight at the Sun, damage is done to the fovea, the part of the eye that we use when recognising people, watching their lips as they talk, or when reading or driving.

Protect your eyes to view eclipse



Aids victim: writer Bruce Chatwin

THE recent biography and revealing TV film of the writer Bruce Chatwin explored his approach to HIV and AIDS, and his refusal for a long while to admit to suffering from anything worse than a mysterious Chinese fungal disease.

In fact Chatwin was not lying; he did suffer from a fungus, *Penicillium marneffei*, which was rare at the time he caught it. It was associated with South-East Asia and was only occasionally seen in Europe. Chatwin wrote about his experiences in a British clinic and there was apparently amazement when the fungus was first isolated from his skin lesions. The microbiologists, used to identifying common fungi from between cracked toes, thrush, or occasional Aspergillus from a case of farmer's lung, were astounded by what they saw

beneath their microscope. To the question "I don't suppose that you have been haymaking in South China recently?" the very English patient of a very English clinic replied: "I was there only last week."

Like any fungal infection, *Penicillium marneffei* in an immunocompromised patient can spread from the skin. On Chatwin's face, but this can give rise to a deep systemic infection, almost impossible to eradicate in the immuno-compromised — as in his case. As with

any opportunistic fungal infection, it may penetrate the blood and be carried to other sites. The patient is likely to suffer from pneumonia, urinary tract infections and diarrhoea from gut complications. The skin lesions are white and raised, they may be papillomatous or may resemble the blistery spots of *Molluscum contagiosum*, a viral skin disease that may be spread sexually and flourishes on thin, sensitive skin, or the fine skin of children.

Penicillium marneffei has spread rapidly among HIV sufferers in South-East Asia and is commonly seen in dermatological and genito-urinary clinics, for instance, as an opportunistic infection in those patients whose resistance, and white blood count, is lowered. It has travelled a long way from South China.



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It's true, tomatoes really do you good

Simultaneous, contradictory views concerning tomatoes, one piece written in this column, and one elsewhere by a nutritionist, generated a surprising amount of correspondence from confused readers.

Rest assured, there is sound scientific evidence to support the nutritional value of tomatoes and their constituent lycopene, an antioxidant that is present in abundance. This should certainly prevent tomatoes being condemned along with caffeine and tobacco.

Lycopene is a powerful antioxidant. Oxidation can be destructive, for instance when, in the form of rust, it destroys elegant, unprotected wrought-iron gates that have stood for centuries. People are not always aware that oxidative damage can occur in the fragile, vulnerable cells of the human body as a result of the actions of the oxygen, in free radicals. Free radicals are highly active atoms, or groups of atoms, capable of damaging

DNA in cells and even the fat of the cell membranes.

The role of antioxidants in foods, such as those found in vitamins C and E, and polyphenols, flavonoids like lycopene and some minerals including selenium and zinc, is to counteract free radicals.

Antioxidants therefore contribute to a longer, better quality of life by inhibiting the production of atheroma, the fatty substance within arteries that clog the channels, and by reducing malignancies.

Lycopene gives the colour to tomatoes, pink grapefruit, watermelon and guava. It is more readily available to the body once tomatoes have been cooked or processed. If it is true that Harold Wilson, the former Prime Minister, really did love ketchup, he certainly doesn't deserve to develop cancer because weight for weight, tomato ketchup is second only to pasta sauce as the richest source of lycopene. A glass of tomato juice contains more lycopene than a whole bowlful of

tomato soup. Alcohol encourages the absorption of some flavonoids and so it is possible that a Bloody Mary may be more nutritious than neat tomato juice.

Many antioxidants are found in fruit and vegetables and the general rule is that the brighter the colour, whether rich green, deep orange or dark red, the better they are likely to be in their cardioprotective and anti-cancer role. Research has shown that people with high levels of lycopene were only half as likely to have a coronary thrombosis as those with low levels.

Recent research in the United States shows that ten large servings a week of tomato sauce halves the incidence of cancer of the prostate. A new study financed by Heinz, which is understandably delighted by the effect of tomato sauce on the heart and prostate, is investigating the potential role of tomatoes in preventing cancers of the digestive tract and breast.



Regular helpings of tomatoes help to protect fragile cells

Indigestion and the link to cancer

control group matched for age and other variables.

If this wasn't alarming enough for those who have to be wary of eating large meals late at night or of being too vigorous after a meal, the research uncovered a more disturbing result. Patients with "longstanding, severe symptoms" of oesophagitis were 43

times more likely to suffer from cancer of the oesophagus. Before indigestion sufferers rush to demand examinations, they should realise that the study involved only a small group of patients.

Even so, the journal suggests that those with recurrent severe symptoms deserve investigation with endoscopy and biopsy. Treatment of GORD, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, persisting despite weight loss and other conservative measures, has been immeasurably improved by the introduction of the proton pump inhibitors.

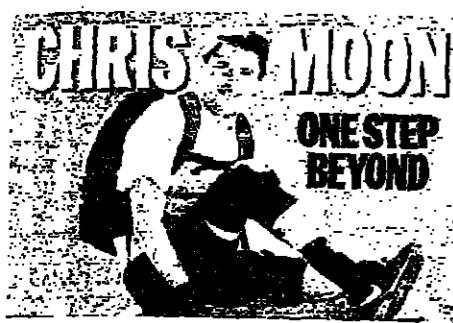
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Every nerve in me screams 'it hurts'



In the final extract from his book, **Chris Moon** describes learning to use his new arm and leg and how he overcame pain and exhaustion to complete the London Marathon

Have you seen that game where prizes are laid out in a big Perspex cylinder and you try to clutch them with a little grab crane? Using the hook is just like that. The false arm fits over the stump. It's a nice fleshy colour with a steel ratchet end fitting where the hook clips in. The hook is held on by straps and works like a lever, with a cable linked to a band around my left shoulder. The jaws open when I stretch out my arm and thick rubber bands force them closed when my body relaxes, taking tension off the cable.

LAST NIGHT the nurses picked out the stitches from the large scabby scar below my knee. Next week the physio thinks they'll be able to take a cast and make my new leg.

The occupational therapist asks: "Would you like to make something with the Meccano? It's a good way to practise using the hook." I spend the next hour constructing a lorry.

The next day is Sunday. Most of the others have gone home for the weekend. After breakfast I turn on the TV to watch the London Marathon, see the magic moments of people of all ages doing their best. Some are in tears as they finish. As I watch them pound the streets I know that next year I must do the marathon.

At 3.30 I prepare to go out alone for the first time. I push myself over the ramp and through the gate. It's important to me to get round on my own. I roll down the drive and along the pavement; as I reach the kerb something happens that I hadn't anticipated — I'm terrified. It's a drop of only a few inches but I haven't done anything like this before. Perhaps I should get somebody to help me. The street is empty. If I do fall out, I think I'll be able to get back in on my own but don't want anybody to see. I stick my leg down and let the wheelchair drop. I make it and get up the other side by turning the wheels backwards. When I get back to the hospital I go to bed early.

I'M HAVING the first leg fitting! I slip a sock over the stump and put it into the moulded white foam socket. Then I push it into the false leg and do up the leather strap above the knee. The prosthetist makes a mark on the top of the false leg and asks: "How does it feel?"

"Fine. Can I try it?" I stand up. John checks the leg. My heart tells me to try to run. He tells me to take it easy.

I take slow, small steps and grip the bar with my left hand. I step forward carefully. When I put the false leg down the pressure feels uncomfortable. I gradually gain confidence and improve slightly. I soon graduate to using the two sticks and get out of the bars.

I walk a little farther each day and practise my gait. I still have a limp. They say it will take months to get it right. The consultant thinks the seat has healed sufficiently and the leg fits. I can go home soon. "What about running?" I ask.

"In some cases it's possible, but it will take time. Without a lower leg, you require 30 per cent more energy to walk. When it comes to running, the stress and pressure through the stump are enormous."

At last my discharge day arrives: April 28. I've done it. I'm out in less than two months.

THE sound of splashing echoes around the vast concrete building. I walk cautiously along the tiles by the side of the pool. By the deep end are some benches. That would be the best place to take my leg off. I should be able to hop to the side from there. On my right is

a woman with her daughter. As I go past she holds the girl's hand and says "Shhh..."

I reach the bench and sit down awkwardly. I put the towel down. Now they can all see I haven't got a hand either.

I pull the leg off. I don't want to risk standing up. I try crawling but the tiles are too hard on the stumps. I edge back to the bench and push myself up with my left hand, driving my left leg up. I jump up the last bit and wobble like a flamingo in a forced ten gate.

I turn the wobble into forward motion and shuffle across the tiles. It takes all my concentration. When I near the edge my foot slips slightly. I crawl the last metre. I never knew it was possible to feel more naked than naked. I get to the edge of the pool and sit with my left leg in the water. It will be over my head. But I want to go in at the deep end.

I look up and realise the whole place is silent. Two ladies are swimming towards me, their eyes locked on to my stumps. The other swimmers paddle and watch. I try to throw myself into the water. Instead I slip in and sink: it's deeper than I thought.

I kick and paddle to the surface and take a deep breath. I try treading water. It feels strange but it's not difficult. Now I'll try breaststroke. Prob-

I fall. The lanyard cord has broken, the leg has shot into the road. A bus is speeding towards me, near the kerb. I wave. "Please God, don't let it run over my leg."

It works. I pick it up, hop to a wall and examine the lanyard fitting. I can't fix it so I put my stump back in the socket and hold it on with my good hand as I walk slowly home.

I'M NOT sorry I have to go to London to get the leg repaired. It gives me a chance to see Alison. She understands my attitude to life and never tells me I can't do things.

On Sundays we usually go for a walk. Today we're driving to woodland to see the autumn leaves. As we walk between the beech trees I think how good it is to be alive. We hold hands and I struggle to keep up but she knows I don't want her to slow down. As we turn a corner she smiles at the chocolate box view of a village. I look into her eyes I think. I'd like to grow old with her.

We emerge near a tea shop. As we wait for our tea I rest my false arm on the table. It's held on partly by suction and as I move it makes a sound like a loud fart. The place goes quiet. The woman at the next table whispers to her husband "Disgusting".

"I'm sorry," I tell Alison. "It does that all the time."

The man at the next table spits out his tea and giggles uncontrollably. I feel a need to explain further so I pull the arm off slightly and press it on the chair hard: the noise is even louder. The bloke spits out another mouthful of tea and starts everyone laughing. Alison is laughing, too. She's definitely the girl for me.

From late January I run with Alison every Sunday. She slows down so I can keep up. When I get back from a run I'm too exhausted to do anything but sleep. By late March the farthest I've run is seven miles. Will I manage 26.2?

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From late January I run with Alison

Gordon's Man Friday goes north

English spies will find little to intrigue in the Scots elections

In rather fancy Charlie Whelan as the Daniel Defoe of his day, Gordon Brown's sometime press adviser has come to Scotland to cover the elections as a journalist and commentator. Most people suspect he may still be acting as the Chancellor's eyes and ears — a gatherer of intelligence about the state of the nation as well as a discreet propagandist for his former master.

In much the same way did Defoe travel north in 1706, a year before the Act of Union, following a Whelan-style fall from grace. The author of *Moll Flanders and Robinson Crusoe* had begun his career as a sort of 18th-century spin-doctor, a familiar figure in the corridors of power who incurred the displeasure of the Government by publishing a scurrilous pamphlet that leaked hostile information about establishment figures.

Defoe paid a rather stiffer price for his indiscretions than Whelan did for dishing the dirt on Peter Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson: he was sentenced to stand in the pillory, pay a fine, and be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure in Newgate Prison. He eventually negotiated his release by cleverly suggesting a new role for himself — passing clandestine information on the forthcoming Union between England and Scotland to Oxford Harley, later Earl of Oxford and the leading statesman of his time.

I doubt if Mr Whelan will have as exciting a time as his predecessor. Within days of arriving, Defoe was watching the mobs storm through the streets of Edinburgh, protesting against constitutional change. "A terrible multitude came up the High Street ... shouting and swearing and crying out all Scotland would stand together. No Union. No Union. English dogs and the like," he wrote. He added that he was risking his life by being there and that "a Scots rabble is the worst of its kind". Defoe, it seemed, favoured the tabloid approach to journalism.

Mr Whelan's approach is likely to be a little more restrained. For one thing, he will see no violent protests on the streets; indeed he will be lucky to find the mob stirred to any greater action than switching channels on its TV sets when it comes around to news time. The various campaigns launched this week seem likely to revolve around issues so well-rehearsed that they have long since ironed out any lingering ability to surprise or alarm. When, during yesterday's press conference, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Jim Wallace, announced that one of his party's distinctive policies would be to improve disabled access, he conceded that this might not mean "storming the barricades". A sudden image surfaced, then sadly receded, of massed wheelchairs surging through the capital.

The fact is that these Scottish elections, despite reinstating a parliament in Edinburgh and ushering in the greatest constitutional reform of the century, have not yet broken the traditional pattern



Magnus Linklater



"THESE MEDIA INSULTS PLAY RIGHT INTO MILOSEVIC'S HANDS..."

Target Milosevic

Nato leaders deserve better from their critics. But the West must escalate the war, says David Hart

A thoroughly dangerous line of argument is beginning to emerge from the fog of the Balkans war. Some, mainly conservative commentators, both here and in the United States, are arguing, directly or by implication, that Nato should not be acting against President Milosevic. Some simply support the Serbs and think that they should be allowed to bring stability to the region, however brutally. These commentators have been less active since the pictures of the hopeless refugees have been filling our television screens. Others argue that Nato will fail in its attempt to coerce Mr Milosevic and that the West's actions will lead to the demise of the world's most successful military alliance.

These critics' motives cannot be certain, and may be as stated, but it is hard not to believe that some of them may be uneasy at the prospect of centre-left politicians like Bill Clinton and Tony Blair achieving a military success.

If Nato does fail, the future of the alliance will be in doubt. But so will the system of moral values that the Western world upholds. Then these critics will say that they have been vindicated. They will not have been. Instead, they will have become the servants of a re-emergence of barbarism in Europe.

There is no difference, except of scale, between the Nazi extermination of the Jews and the ethnic cleansing of the Kosovo Albanians by Mr Milosevic and his colleagues. The critics differentiate, if they can, between the horror people felt in 1945 as the true scale and depravity of the Holocaust became clear and the horror we feel today. We witness on our screens the dead bodies of unarmed men, not members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, who have been systematically taken out of their homes and herded into fields and shot, often after their families have given money for their lives to be spared.

There is absolutely no difference in moral degradation between the actions of the murder squads organised by Mr Milosevic and those led by Sauron and all the other Nazis and Nazi sympathisers in the Second World War. Both sought material gain from their actions, looting and stealing the property of Jews and Albanians. Both murdered unarmed civilians because of their race. Both display a kind of moral sickness that is

irredeemable. If Chamberlain and Daladier had had the courage to act against Hitler, say after Kristallnacht in 1938, many millions of Jews would have survived to live normal lives. It is wholly right that Nato's political leaders, including the Americans and Canadians, have acted at last that barbarity will not be tolerated in Europe.

As soon as the first Nato bombs fell, Mr Milosevic was bound to react. Perhaps the speed and brutality of the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo took some Nato leaders by surprise. But carping about being unprepared to succour the refugees, or about changes in Nato objectives, is very far off the mark.

Mr Milosevic may have made a significant if appalling move in Kosovo, but on the chessboard of conflict it is not the first but the last significant move that counts.

It is clear that Mr Milosevic's actions in Kosovo have changed the strategic environment so that Nato has no option now but to create a protectorate in part, or all, of Kosovo to which the displaced Albanians can, and will, return. That raises the vexed question of the use of Nato ground troops. Nato leaders are agreed that ground troops will be needed to police any settlement that is made with the Serb Government. Nato is ready with a well-prepared plan and some forces are in the area. An opposed Nato incursion into Kosovo is an entirely different matter. It would require something like 200,000 troops and involve significant casualties.

It is understandable that the Americans do not want to commit ground troops to a European war. It took Churchill almost two years and significant help from the Japanese to persuade them to join us in the war against the Nazis. The American public does not yet have the will for a fight far away from home to save people they do not know and who speak a different language. But, if Mr Milosevic cannot be stopped by air power, Nato will either have to face defeat or ground troops will have to be deployed.

We are entering the most dangerous moments of this conflict so far. In the ensuing days the will and courage of Nato's political leaders will be tested, as it has never been tested before. Mr Milosevic has already offered a tactical "ceasefire" this week and he will go on making offers designed to split the alliance. He may well even offer to accept Nato demands. But his record as a keeper of promises is not good. Even so, there will be intense pressure on Nato leaders to agree to a settlement, even if it is an unsatisfactory one.

Mr Milosevic is so steeped in blood that a negotiated settlement is now no longer tenable, unless he surrenders himself and his henchmen as part of the deal.

That is a most unlikely outcome. Any conclusion to hostilities that leaves Mr Milosevic where he is and his murder squads in tact, will come to be seen by the Western press and all sensible people as a defeat for Nato. The West has no option. It must escalate the conflict well beyond Mr Milosevic's expectations and calculations. He knows that Western leaders are civilised and do not like conflict. He has been banking on just that. It must be a fundamental figure in his calculations. The destruction of the Milosevic leadership must now become the principle objective of Nato military action. Nato must attack Mr Milosevic's political infrastructure, his colleagues and the man himself. It is too late for threats of improbable arrests, lengthy arguments in The Hague at war-crimes trials and life imprisonment. Civilised and satisfying though that would be, and despite the Lockerbie suspects' incarceration, it will not happen to Mr Milosevic.

No more midnight attacks by cruise missiles against Defence and Interior Ministry facilities. The

attacks should be timed to coincide with the maximum occupation of such buildings. The thugs who have organised the ethnic cleansing must be targets, not just their buildings.

There are those who argue that

air power alone cannot force Mr Milosevic to comply with Nato. Certainly, there are not many precedents to gainsay them. Air power is crucially dependent on what or who is targeted, and how effectively.

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya shut down his state-sponsored terrorism after the Americans almost managed to kill him by aerial bombardment. Technology has advanced greatly since then.

Even in the past five years there have been spectacular advances in accuracy and capability. It

would be unwise for Mr Milosevic to think that Nato does not have the means to destroy him, even if it is reasonable for him to have supposed that it does not have the will. Killing innocent and unarmed Albanians in cold blood is cowardly. Those who do such things are cowards. If Mr Milosevic and his murderous colleagues see the cruise missiles and the smart bombs getting rapidly closer to their own offices, their own homes and their own persons, I would be surprised if they do not sue for peace. If they do not, the Yugoslav National Army leadership may well take over and do it for them. There are senior officers in the Yugoslav army with a sense of honour proper to military men. They cannot be comfortable with the actions of their political leadership or with the daily sight of their men, equipment and military facilities being destroyed by a largely untouchable enemy.

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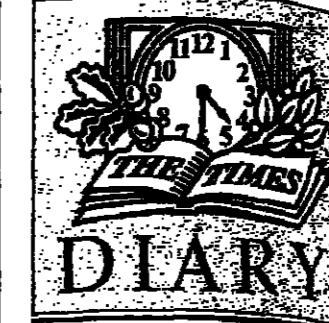
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Paine's gain?

LORD ATTENBOROUGH'S republican campaign has received a sympathetic ear at No 10. The film director dined discreetly with Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, last Friday to discuss whether the PM would be prepared to lend indirect support to the anti-monarchy movement by unveiling a statue of Thomas Paine.

Attenborough, who plans to make a film of the 18th-century revolutionary's life featuring Daniel Day-Lewis, is the highest-profile supporter of the Common Sense group. It is campaigning to have Paine's seminal role in the American and French Revolutions recognised in Britain by unveiling the statue on the day the last hereditary peer leaves the House of Lords.

IF BETTE DAVIS had been a little more pleasant in 1955 on the set of *The Virgin Queen*, Joan Collins (left) might have become a very different actress. "I was 19, working with Bette (right)," says the star of *The Bitch*. "She was so horrible that I said to myself, 'if ever I get to be a star, I am going to be as supportive as possible to new actors.'"



KEN LIVINGSTONE owes his life to Dr Strangelove. The Labour MP, who as the former GLC leader declared London a nuclear-free zone, has disclosed that a doctor on a French nuclear test site in Africa saved his life.

While on holiday from his day job as a lab technician, Livingstone stumbled into the weapons facility while travelling across the Sahara in 1966. "I had terrible dysentery, had lost the use of both my legs and was clearly dying," he recalls.

"The nearest town was more than 500 miles away. In the middle of the desert, there was a barbed wire fence and a door with a bell which we rang. A jeep drove over, a French doctor was summoned and my life was saved."

THAT pretty, albeit politically aware, boy of Britpop, Damon Albarn, wants to become Björk's soulmate. The lead singer of Blur, who owns a Reykjavík pad, has applied for Icelandic citizenship. "I feel uncomfortable in England. Iceland is a place I feel a kindred spirit with, and it's a way to stick two fingers up at the English Establishment."

WHEN I knock into Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, the crooners who formed the middle letters of Abba, at the *Mamma Mia!* premiere party, they tell me a comeback is unlikely: "Look at us. We are too old to play the part." I demur from repeating their comments about how time has treated Frida and Agnetha.

'A RETURN TO KITSCH 'N' SINK DRAMA.'
PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE
MAMMA MIA!

VICTORIA WOOD is to haul out David Blunkett. She expects to raise £15,000 in one night by performing a rare double act with Geoffrey Durham, her magician husband, for her child's school.

■ DOMINICK DUNNE, the American man of letters, claims he could have stymied the Lewinsky palaver if only he had believed the affair was possible. In the forthcoming *Vanity Fair*, he says he kept abreast of Linda Tripp's taping through a literary agent friend.

Before the messy business blew up, Dunn bumped into Vernon Jordan, President Clinton's golf buddy and legal minder, in a New York restaurant in 1997. "I decided to warn him that an intern of the President's was being taped."

"But the story suddenly seemed absurd. I thought that no one could be such a goddamned fool as to have an affair with a twenty-something in the Oval Office. So I simply mumbled 'Give my best to the President'."

EDWARD WELSH

'The West has consistently seen air power as a kind of geopolitical one-night stand, offering gratification without commitment'

Dominick Donald

settlement unless you show the resolution necessary to enforce it. The West's readiness to use air power was supposed to show its resolve. But the West has consistently seen air power as a kind of geopolitical one-night stand, offering gratification without commitment.

The failure of the West to bring Serbia to heel during the Rambouillet negotiations revealed the fundamental flaw in "immaculate coercion". The Milosevics were to refuse to commit troops until there was a settlement to police it — no mater-

what you say. Yet deadlines were postponed and ultimatums ignored. Power is as much about political will as military means, and political will is best reflected by how much one is ready to risk: yet our leaders declared we would commit ground troops only if Mr Milosevic rolled over. By telling the Yugoslav leader we would not risk anything substantial we showed him our will was weak.

A ground deployment was on the cards the moment "immaculate coercion" was launched. If Tony Blair and Bill Clinton had

reluctance to understand that "no-casualty" intervention is a lethal fantasy. The best way to minimise risk is to maintain the initiative. But the Western refusal to deploy a ground force before a settlement handed that initiative to Mr Milosevic. It left the principal issue at stake — the Kosovar Albanians — in his unmerciful hands. And despite the disclaimers of the last week, it has long been clear that Mr Milosevic might drive them out: his ruthless conduct in Vukovar in 1991 showed what he would do when unrestrained. Now Nato will have to deploy a ground force. But the deployment will be on Mr Milosevic's terms. Who else but he will do the permitting in the "permissive environment" of which strategists dream?

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EDWARD WELSH



TO WILL THE END

Nato politicians must will the means for victory

Two weeks into the air war, Slobodan Milošević at last begins to look like the loser that he must, at whatever cost, be eventually proved to be. The Serbian leader cannot have expected Nato to do other than kick away his unilateral "ceasefire" — a temporary and tactical ceasefire that has stopped neither attacks on Nato aircraft nor fresh atrocities against Kosovars. Its main purpose was probably to provide political camouflage for standing down his armour in Kosovo before Nato destroys it, as it has finally begun to do. He may even extend the tactic, since Nato assaults on its ground forces in Kosovo will be more devastating once the American Apache attack helicopters and multiple launch rocket systems are deployed. Whether or not he does so, this supposed ceasefire is an irrelevance.

Kosovo's Albanians continue to endure a living hell; but a massive allied relief operation is beginning to improve conditions for the hundreds of thousands of deportees forced into Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia. That operation must include proper coverage of the administrative, social and logistical costs incurred by these governments and their people; and broad economic support for them and for other countries in the region, such as Bulgaria, which face extensive economic damage as a result of a conflict that is not of their making.

The agony of the Kosovars has appealed Western public opinion, hardening their support for Nato. It has begun to convince even the most pacific and the most sceptical that this evil, unparalleled in postwar Europe, cannot stand — and that unstintingly generous humanitarian relief, while essential and urgent, is a palliative rather than the solution that must be pursued.

That solution is their return, in safety, to rebuild their shattered lives; anything else would be a defeat for Nato and for humanity. There can be no peace that accepts the "facts on the ground" that Mr Milošević has, in a calculated challenge, created. And there would in fact be no peace on those abject terms; for if the neighbouring countries had permanently to absorb most of the Kosovan refugees, Mr Milošević would then have succeeded in destabilising the entire region.

Hard evidence accumulates that the atrocities in Kosovo are premeditated war crimes, that the methodical elimination of the Kosovan Albanians has been in preparation for months. The CIA was aware as early as last autumn of a plan, codenamed Operation Horseshoe, to kill or drive them out over several months. A village a day was the rate that Mr Milošević calculated the West would wring its hands over without acting. In Pristina, public records have been combed to identify precisely which homes, shops and businesses were Albanian-owned; Serb police and paramilitaries have emptied towns and villages neighbourhood by neighbourhood in a pattern that has been as unvaried as it has been ruthless.

The packed trains, the snipers picking off those who strayed out of line on the forced marches to the borders: every detail points to the existence of a detailed blueprint, without which so many could not have been murdered or driven into exile within a fortnight. In this context, yesterday's reported sealing of the frontiers by Serb forces is a sinister development; there is no such thing as safety in Kosovo for a people marked for destruction solely because of their racial identity.

This, then, is a war that must be won — and must be seen to be won. Convinced of this, Western publics await, with mounting

YELLOW AND BENT

The EU's contorted banana regime must now be abandoned

For the fifth time in a mere six years an international trade panel has investigated the methods by which the European Union regulates the imports of bananas and found them wanting. On every previous occasion the EU has fiddled at the edges of its rules and avoided the substantive issue. As a result the EU and an increasingly frustrated United States have found themselves on the brink of a serious trade conflict. The decision announced by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) yesterday represents the EU's last chance to reach an amicable settlement. If it does not, then nearly £120 million of retaliatory American sanctions will be imposed shortly, with a devastating impact on the Scotch cashmere industry among others.

The WTO arbitrators were required to pronounce on whether the EU banana regime applies quotas and tariffs to certain countries in a discriminatory fashion. It is not difficult to sympathise with the logic that led them to conclude that the present banana system is indefensible. The EU divides banana producers into three different sections: those within the EU itself; those from 12 specific African, Caribbean and Pacific nations; and others from those regions plus the so-called "dollar banana" suppliers from Latin America. The first two quotas are based on the highest previous levels of sales and are thus very charitable. The final quota is set deliberately low and, once exceeded, invokes utterly punitive additional tariffs.

Nor can this be defended as a necessary means of preserving plucky, poor, former colonies from heartless American-owned multinational corporations. The primary

impatience, a clearer articulation of what "winning" would look like, and how Nato proposes to get there.

On "winning", Nato's reiterated insistence that Mr Milošević must accept "a political settlement based on the Rambouillet peace agreement" rings hollow. Even with extensive self-government, it left Belgrade in ultimate authority over Kosovo and gave it two years to withdraw its troops and paramilitary forces. Rambouillet is dead. That leaves only partition, or an international protectorate which Nato would have to police for years to come.

Partition may be Mr Milošević's planned fallback. But it cannot be remotely on his terms. The only partition that could, after such brutality, be contemplated would create small enclaves around particularly "historic" Serb sites, with the rest of the province under the full control of the Kosovar Albanian majority. Even then, whatever moral sense such a settlement might make, it would most likely just set the stage for the next conflict.

A protectorate makes more sense. It would ultimately lead either to a Yugoslav confederation under new constitutional settlement, or to independence. The choice would be Serbia's: if the Milošević police state stays in power, independence would be the consequence. If his regime were replaced by a democratic Government committed, like that of the republic of Montenegro, to intercommunal tolerance, a confederation could just conceivably be accepted by the traumatised Kosovars; that would create the best conditions for durable political stability and the massive reconstruction that will be required.

But first Mr Milošević must be defeated. Nato leaders still insist that this can be achieved by air power alone. They are not believed, either by their own publics or by Belgrade. It is time that they answered the question: what happens after the bombing? For now, the Alliance's priority is to hammer Yugoslavia's military infrastructure and the fighting strength and morale of its forces in Kosovo. But sooner rather than later, airstrikes will have achieved all that they can, short of destroying what is left of the modern Yugoslav state. These airstrikes may or may not succeed in creating the "permissive environment" which would enable people to start returning home under Nato protection. Even under the best scenario, Nato troops will require much heavier armoury than was envisaged at the time of Rambouillet. It is more likely that they will have to contend with armed Serb resistance, organised or "freelance".

There is no predicting if, or when, Mr Milošević will admit defeat. There must be no question of a gap of weeks or months before Nato is ready to move in its troops. Nato started this campaign on the wrong foot; it must be adequately prepared for the final, and be seen to be so.

Public support for committing troops, to a ground war if need be, is growing, with a majority now in favour even in the United States. The barbarity in Kosovo has seen that. Troops can be swiftly deployed, but their equipment needs to be seaborne in the very near future. The Pentagon's announcement that 2,600 troops, equipped with main battle tanks and armoured vehicles, will move to Albania as "force protection" for the Apache helicopters, could be the preliminary moves in the direction to which the logic of this war inexorably points. There is no gain in politicians continuing to pretend that they are the only people who have neither given, nor are prepared to give, the proper thought to the Nato endgame.

Milosevic in pursuit of his 'final solution' in Kosovo

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Sir, The idea of driving all the Albanians out of Kosovo has been canvassed sporadically in Serb nationalist theorising ever since the province was allocated to Serbia by the then great powers in 1912-13.

Governments in Belgrade have tried fairly consistently to make Albanians leave. They have had some success; but the Albanian population has multiplied and the Serb population, defined as Serb families preferred not to stay in that relatively neglected, underdeveloped and overwholly Albanian region.

President Milošević and his Government are the first to try to put the theoretical final solution into practice. It is a final solution without gas chambers. There is plenty of killing, but perhaps not enough as yet to earn the name of holocaust in public estimation.

The cause of this final solution is not the bombing but the assessment made in Belgrade that the Contact Group plan put forward at Rambouillet implied that Kosovo would slip out of Serbian control in the next few years and that the ruin of the Greater Serbia project would be complete. The only way to prevent Kosovo becoming autonomous was to drive out the population which would exercise autonomy.

Those who flinch from Nato's action, or speculate about a negotiated endgame, or weigh up the possibility of dividing Kosovo should perhaps reflect on the shame and confusion which will overtake Europe if we fail for a second time to check and reverse the carrying-out of a final solution in this century. And the Russians, with their experience of pogroms and massacres, would be wise to recognise that a truly massive pogrom is occurring in Kosovo and avoid lending support to its perpetrators.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Y Frodeg, Penlai,
Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9JX.
April 6.

From Dr Raphael Papadopoulos

Sir, The most serious and lasting damage by the bombs and rockets is being inflicted on the international community and its collective institutions.

Nato's action constitutes a clear violation of the rules of the international community and its own charter. Why

War crimes

From Mrs Irene Rosenberg

Sir, Mr Barry Barnes comments (letter, April 5) that "a frail old man" has been convicted of crimes committed in 1942 and suggests that "the door be shut on the past".

Unfortunately, the past is so tightly packed with the corpses of millions of innocent men, women and children, and of many, many frail old people, that the doors just cannot be closed.

Yours faithfully,
IRENE ROSENBERG,
17 Fernhill Drive,
Redbridge, Ilford, Essex IG4 5BN.
April 7.

Fires in tunnels

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, It is hard for me to understand why the tragic fire in the Mont Blanc tunnel (report, March 27), or that in the Channel Tunnel in 1996, should have taken several hours to subdue.

A simple plug of fresh-air detergent foam, generated upwind of the seat of the fire, will rapidly extinguish it, while permitting refugees and fire-fighters to breathe. The fiercer the fire, the more rapidly such a plug will take effect, provided it is formed by spraying a light mesh screen, which can be rapidly erected to cover the cross-section of the tunnel.

This foam plug technique was developed at the Safety in Mines Research Establishment in the 1950s, and widely publicised in the mining industry at the time.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMITH
(Chartered mining engineer),
63 Abbey House,
1a Abbey Road, NW8 9BX.
March 27.

Pupil selection

From Mr Donald S. Akroyd

Sir, Mr Edward Norman (letter, March 29) is so right in believing that selection will be distressing to the least gifted in the class who cannot become the "new elite".

It will be distressing for those in comprehensive schools to see a classmate with four A levels proceed to Oxbridge; for those in the village team to see any friend playing in the Premier League; for a junior clerk to see a colleague rise to board level; or even for the parish priest to see a neighbouring priest elevated to a bishopric.

But then life is distressing, some are more equal than others and education must encourage the bright pupils and recognise that there will always be "also-rans".

Yours,
DONALD S. AKROYD,
The Stone Cottage, Barnwell,
Peterborough PE8 5PF.
March 29.

Business letters, page 31

will a Nato-imposed selectivity in the use of military force be better for the peace of the world than the more balanced and consensual selectivity implicit in the UN rules?

Milosević's behaviour in Kosovo, abhorrent as it is, is not unique. "Successful" examples of ethnic cleansing in Palestine, Croatia and northern Cyprus, to name the three nearest, suggest that ethnic cleansers consider war of any kind as a golden opportunity for a rapid acceleration of the process.

What seems to be different this time is the determined effort of some Nato politicians to channel the public debate by flourishing new rules of engagement for Nato and a selective view of history.

Yours sincerely,
R. PAPADOPoulos,
52 Asmuns Place, NW1 7XE.
April 6.

From Dr Martin Evans

Sir, I totally support the principle of Nato military intervention to stop this abhorrent "ethnic cleansing", but, as our wiser retired generals have repeatedly reminded us, it will take a land army to do it. If we did not think we could win even with a ground force we should never have started this war.

Nato's faith in bombs as a means of persuasion is alarming for its naivety and our Government's intellectual dishonesty in pretending that we can successfully prosecute this war from a safe distance insults the intelligence and courage of the British people.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN EVANS,
35 Cavendish Avenue,
Cambridge CB1 7UR.
April 6.

From Dr Raphael Papadopoulos

Sir, The most serious and lasting damage by the bombs and rockets is being inflicted on the international community and its collective institutions.

Nato's action constitutes a clear violation of the rules of the international community and its own charter. Why

Judges' ruling on asylum-seekers

From Mr J. B. McGuinness

Sir, Almost daily, Tom Walker has reported conditions and attitudes in Belgrade under Nato's bombing. But there are no reports of protests in Belgrade against the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo. Nor, for that matter, were there during the earlier atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I do not believe, as was suggested in the BBC news this evening, that Serbians are ignorant of these crimes.

Daniel Goldhagen's monumental study *Hitler's Willing Executioners*

and leave it to the jurisdiction of Parliament.

In this case the law lords have stepped over the mark. As the final court of appeal on this matter they have created law. The only choice for the Home Secretary and Parliament is to bring in legislation reversing the judgment, which is unlikely.

Given that the Human Rights Act is currently on the statute book we face a situation of major constitutional significance. The judiciary is clearly feeling in a reforming mood and may challenge any legislation that it feels contravenes some universal human right. Parliament won the battle in the last century as to the right of judges to challenge statutes. In the next century the judiciary is clearly going to have a more powerful role.

The independence of the judiciary must be examined. The selection process will have to become more transparent and accountable. Parliament must recognise that it will have to forgo its present absolute sovereignty.

Yours,
J. B. MCGUINNESS,
22 Oswald Road,
Chorlton, Manchester M21 9LP.
April 3.

From Mr Adam Ogilvie-Smith

Sir, There is no harm in publishing the locations of speed traps (report, March 24; letters, March 31 and April 7). The cameras' objective is to reduce accident rates, not to increase penalties to motorists.

My review of the Traffic Police in 1993-94, on behalf of the Home Office, revealed two key facts. First, the police was to site cameras where there was a proven accident rate, not necessarily where speeds were highest.

Second, some police forces had co-operated with the creation of "speed-trap maps": when one such city map was being made, the relevant police force alerted the map-maker to cameras he had missed — with the goal of reducing accidents at those locations, either by slowing or diverting the traffic.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM OGILVIE-SMITH,
Hyde House,
Longworth,
Oxfordshire OX13 5HH.
April 7.

From Mrs Cynthia Knowles

Sir, At their request we have given our daughter and new son-in-law of ten days, a tandem (letters, April 2 and 5).

Yours faithfully,
CYNTHIA KNOWLES,
Square Fold,
26 White Lion Road, Amersham,
Buckinghamshire HP7 9JD.
April 6.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Medical efficacy of green tea

From Dr Anne M. Birrell

Sir, May I add a footnote to your entertaining editorial on the efficacy of drinking green tea ("Hot, wet and healthy", April 1).

The anecdote about the discovery of tea as a drink by the "servant of the Chinese Emperor Shen Nung" is triply apocryphal. Shen Nung was not an historical emperor and the dates given are a traditional invention.

Shen Nung was a god whose name translates as God the Farmer. Besides being the god of agriculture, he was also the god and divine originator of medicine. His name was attached to the traditional pharmacopoeia generally entitled the *Pen tsao*, or herbal.

Far from being discovered and enjoyed in the 3rd millennium BC, *Thea viridis*, the tea shrub, was originally not indigenous to China but imported from India in the 6th century AD. Its link with God the Farmer, patron of medicine, is its medical efficacy, allegedly aiding drinkers as a diuretic, laxative, stimulant and cooling infusion, besides its use as an eyewash and lotion for sores. Its seeds allegedly cured coughs and tumours.

The Tang writer Lu Yu promoted its benefit in his book, *The Tea Classic* of AD 804, using the word ch'a for tea, whence cuppa char in pidgin English.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE M. BIRRELL
(Author, *Chinese Mythology — An Introduction*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993),
Clare Hall,
Herschel Road, Cambridge CB3 9AL.
April 1.

From Dr L. Fisch

Sir, Your leading article concerning the benefits of drinking tea mentioned William Gladstone: "If you are depressed it will cheer you; if you are excited, it will calm you."

A reason for the paradoxical effect of so-called psychostimulants was suggested by Dr J. Wilder in the *American Journal of Psychotherapy* (72, 199, 1958) and other journals. He named this phenomenon "The law of initial values", according to which a change in any function caused by stimulation depends upon the pre-stimulus level of that function.

A commonly used stimulant, such as tea for example, has precisely the effect mentioned by Gladstone. A habitual smoker may light a cigarette to calm down, but when he or she is feeling low and depressed it may stimulate activity.

Doctors and others are puzzled by the paradoxical effect of psychostimulants (especially Ritalin, used to calm hyperactive children but which is also accepted as a stimulant). Nevertheless, Dr Wilder's important revelations seem to have disappeared into the dustbin of history.</p



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 6: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 7: The Duke of York today launched the Royal News Review on the Internet at the Costa Cafe, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 7: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened Alexandra House, which is the home of Age Concern Hounslow and the Brentford Community Resource Centre, in Albany Road, Brentford, Middlesex. Her Royal Highness, President, subsequently visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund at 123a King Street, Hammersmith, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit the Taig Chærnabagh Arts Centre at Loughmaddy, North Ulster, at 11.30; will visit Loughmaddy Surgery, at 11.55; will visit the Iron Age Settlement at Bernera, Isle of Lewis, at 12.55; and will join members of the Bernera Community for a reception at the Community Centre and then present the Lord of the Isles Trophy to the winning team of the Shinty Mini Festival, at 1.50.

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Rolls-Royce Filton, at 10.40; and will visit Hewlett-Packard, Bristol, at 12.30.

Princess Alexandra, patron, will attend a reception and luncheon to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London, at 12.30.

Mr Peregrine Fellows

A memorial service for Mr Peregrine Fellows, will be held at the Brompton Oratory, on Thursday, May 6, 1999, at 11.00am.

Mrs Santa Peake (von Hemikstein)

A mass in thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Santa Maria Peake, will be held in the Chapel of The Hope Nursing Home, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 11.00am.

School news

Queen Margaret's School, York
Queen Margaret's School, York announces the awards of the following Scholarships for September 1999:

Academy Scholarships
1st Anne Dawson (Kynsey Primary School), Thirsk; Sheldon Ford (Badger Hill Primary School), York.

2nd Greta Cookhouse (Pitman Hall School, Darlington); Elizabeth Hodgkinson (Queen Mary's School, Thirsk).

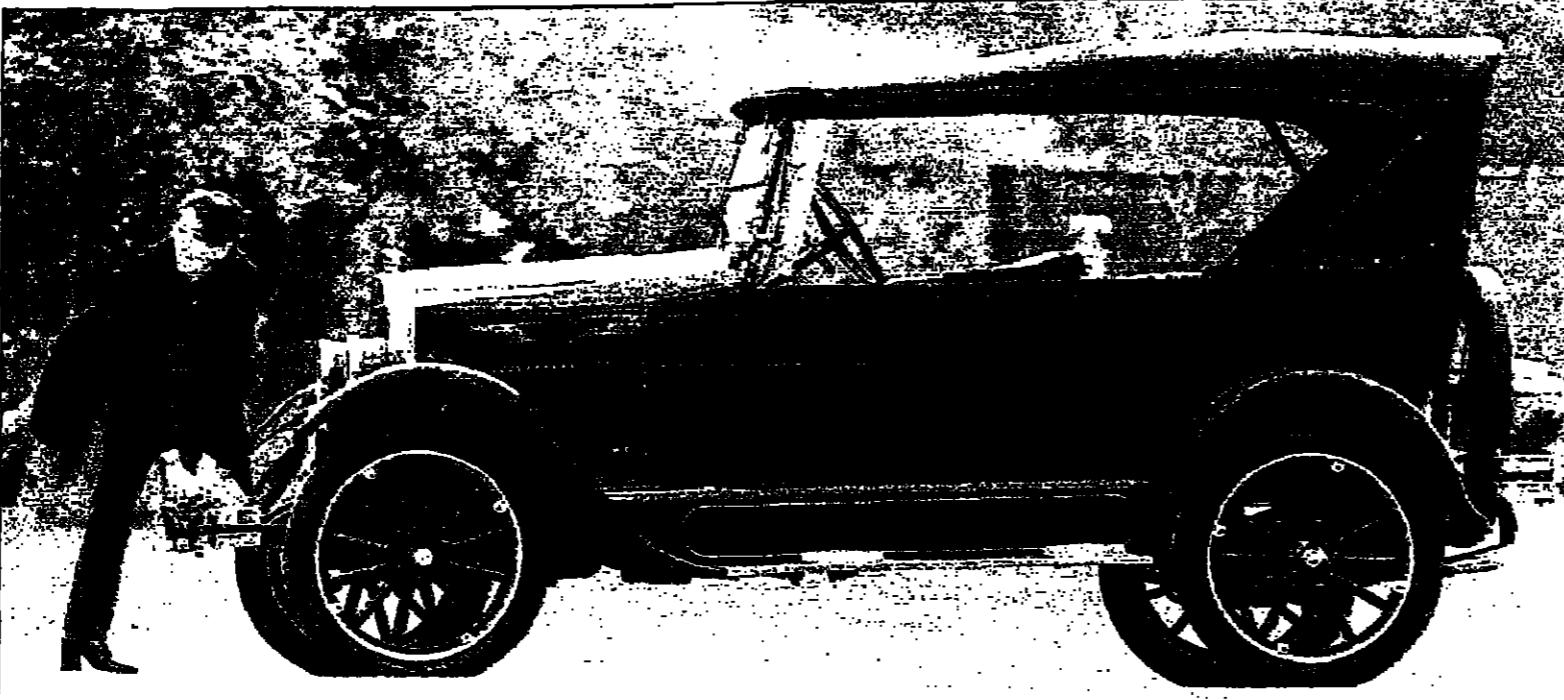
3rd Matilda Goss (Pitman Hall School, Darlington); Sophie Hockin-Topham (Queen Mary's School, Thirsk).

5th Anna Internati, awardee, Suganya, Angie, Rachel O'Brien, Notts, Suganya.

Appointments

Mr Ian Kelly has been appointed Ambassador to Belarus in succession to Miss Jessica Pearce, and

Mr John Grant has been appointed Ambassador to Sweden from August in succession to Mr Roger Bone. Miss Pearce and Mr Bone will be transferred to new Diplomatic Service appointments.



This sparkling 1924 Star cabriolet, made by the Durant Motor Company of Michigan as an up-to-date rival of the Model T Ford, is expected to make £8,000 to £10,000 at an auction of vintage cars, motorcycles and motoring paraphernalia at Sotheby's Billingshurst saleroom tomorrow

Birthdays today

Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations, 61; Professor Sir John Arbuthnott, Principal, Strathclyde University, 60; Mr Tony Banks, MP, Minister for Sport, 56; Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 55; Mr Mark Blundell, racing driver, 33; Sir Andrew Bowden, former MP, 69; Sir Graham Burton, diplomat, 58; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 75; Lord Grantham, 48; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowry, former matron-in-chief, PMRAFNS, 94; Mrs Mary Moore, former First Minister, Chief Scout, 50; Mr Peter Morris, former executive, TUC, 58; Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 80; Mr Alec Stewart, cricketer, 36; Sir Thomas Thompson, former chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 76; Miss Dorothy Turin, actress, 68; Miss Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer, 58; Baroness Young of Old Scone, 51.

Service luncheon

Somerset Light Infantry

Colonel J.L. Waddy presided at a luncheon of the Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) held yesterday at the Mount Somerset Hotel, Taunton.

Meeting

Royal Institute of International Affairs

Sir Charles Powell was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs held yesterday at Clutham House, London. Lord Jenkins of Roding presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Loudon, horticulturist, Cambuslang, Strathclyde, 1783; Sir Arthur Streeton, Australian painter, Victoria, 1867; Albert I, King of the Belgians 1909-34, Brussels, 1975; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Chester, 1899; Mary Pickford, silent film star, Toronto, 1933; Sonja Henie, world skating champion and film actress, Oslo, 1967.

DEATHS: El Greco, painter, Toledo, 1614; Karl von Humboldt, philosopher and educator, Tegel, Germany, 1835; Elisha Otis, pioneer of the safety lift, Yonkers, New York, 1861; Vaslav Nijinsky, ballet dancer, London, 1950; Pablo Picasso, painter, Mouans-Sartoux, France, 1973; Omar Nelson Bradley, American general, New York, 1981; Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship Great Western sailed from Bristol on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic to New York, 1838.

King Zog of Albania abdicated, 1939.

The League of Nations held its final meeting, 1946.

In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was convicted for his involvement with the Mau-Mau, 1953.

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Mr Ian Kelly has been appointed Ambassador to Belarus in succession to Miss Jessica Pearce, and

Mr John Grant has been appointed Ambassador to Sweden from August in succession to Mr Roger Bone. Miss Pearce and Mr Bone will be transferred to new Diplomatic Service appointments.

Winston Churchill Fellowships

The following have been awarded Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowships for 1999 (the list gives name, home town, age, occupation, place of travel and purpose):

Mr Peter Campbell, London, 36, programme manager, Health Education Authority, US and Australia; Health promotion strategies for the 21st century; Ms Mary Moore, former First Minister, Chief Scout, 50; Mr Peter Morris, former executive, TUC, 58;

Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 80; Mr Alec Stewart, cricketer, 36; Sir Thomas Thompson, former chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 76;

Mr Andrew Beard, Sheffield, 50; City and Regional Council, County of Lancashire, City of Preston, 35; regeneration through quality urban design;

Mr Philip Bentle, Ormskirk, 36, transport engineer, Blackpool Transport Council, Lancashire, England; Design for Sweden and Finland; Design criteria for railway passenger/freight facilities;

Ms Valerie Bense, Newcastle upon Tyne, 32; mental and educational psychologist, Canada, US and Australia; A transitional approach to student peer support systems;

Ms Christine Beveridge, London, 43; design for elderly people, Australia; Establishing hepatitis C support groups in the community;

Dr Richard Bradshaw, Cambridge, 33; environmental scientist, Cambridge University, 76; The cabin of understanding of animal welfare science;

Mr Mark Brundrett, Brinsford, 40; university lecturer in education management, US; Headteacher training and assessment;

Miss Jessie Bryce-Daniel, Golcar, 35; landscape architect, Japan and US; Urban design, parks and spaces;

Mr Michael Cawthron, 49, college lecturer, Canada, US and Australia; Educational and training opportunities for women in rural areas;

Mr Peter Campbell, Lewisham, 47; riding instructor, Germany and Sweden; The training and development of junior dressage riders;

Mr Charles Davies, Kendal, 44; primary school teacher, UK; Recreating and retaining schoolteachers in inner city/middle cultural areas;

Mr Andrew Beard, Sheffield, 50; City and Regional Council, County of Lancashire, City of Preston, 35; regeneration through quality urban design;

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OBITUARIES

Bob Peck, actor.
died of cancer on April 4 aged 53. He was born on August 23, 1945.

the Royal Court. After that, he did a short stint in Birmingham before joining the RSC in 1975.

There he began by playing Malvolio on regional tour; he would eventually go on to play Macbeth, Caliban and Edward Bond's Lear in a single season. "By the time I got to Endebardus," he recalled, "I was so tired I kept falling asleep during the rehearsals." Along the way he had a part in the RSC's enormously successful *Nicholas Nickleby* and in the subsequent film.

Rather reticent and more shy about his feelings than many in his profession, he was occasionally known as "Pause Peck" because of his Yorkshire silences. He was respected as a good company actor, however, and was given parts by most of the RSC directors, including Ronald Eyre, Howard Davies, Barry Kyle, John Caird, Adrian Noble and Bill Alexander.

Peck's time at the RSC coincided with the best years of Trevor Nunn's regime, and the two men enjoyed a productive relationship, but working for the company meant that Peck never came home before 11.30 at night, and with young children he was ready for a change by the time he left in 1984.

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disaster, and the makers of such grim dramas were to turn to him again and again.

Much of the action of the series, which boasted music by Eric Clapton, was filmed in a cavernous disused mine in Wales which had been used to store works of art during the war. "We spent three weeks in the depths of the earth without seeing any daylight," Peck said. The conditions were far from

ideal for filming — with rats running around, water dripping down the walls and fears that the shoot-out scenes might bring down the roof — but Peck came away with a great regard for the miners who had hewn eerie caverns the size of St Paul's by brute force.

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his schedule — at one time he was recording voiceovers for BP, British Gas, British Steel and the Coal Board — but generally he was able

to choose the kind of cerebral,

challenging work he enjoyed. This included a television drama about the first days of the Falklands conflict, *An Ungentlemanly Act*, which was largely filmed on the islands, and *Who Bombed Birmingham?*, about the Birmingham Six. Other work included *The Taming of the Shrew* for Radio 3.

By 1987 he was as busy as any actor could wish, and appearing in a host of different media. That year he appeared on television in Simon Gray's black comedy *After Pilkington*, in the film of Bruce Chatwin's *On the Black Hill*, in Alan Ayckbourn's National Theatre hit *A Chorus of Disapproval*, and in his first commercial West End production, *Ronald Harwood's J. J. Farr* at the Phoenix Theatre with Albert Finney.

During the making of *On the Black Hill*, Peck had to learn various pastoral tasks, such as ploughing, and was also required to throw himself in front of a wild horse to be kicked to death — but the animal would not co-operate, and eventually Peck had to be disposed of by other means. "I've worked with them all," he said, "dogs, sheep, horses, amateurs, first-time directors..."

Directors liked him, not least for his patience when a scene had to be shot repeatedly. Robert Young, for instance, paid tribute to his "amazing ability to reproduce what appear to be spontaneous moments again and again without effort".

In 1989 Peck played in Arthur Miller's short new theatre piece *Two-Way Mirror* at the Young Vic, where David Thacker had so impressed the American play-

wright, and the following year he was there again as Walter in Miller's *The Price* (1968).

Also at the end of the 1980s he was to be seen in the BBC's *One Way Out*, playing an architect whose ex-wife is attacked in front of their children, moving him to vengeance. Shortly beforehand, Peck's own wife, Jill Baker, had starred in a drama about mistreatment of children, and the couple were characteristically affected by the parts they played.

Further television work followed, including the psychological thriller *Children Crossing* and a play about the Romanian Revolution, with Bernard Hill. In 1992 Peck played an advertising executive trying to find the killer of his former girlfriend in David Pirie's three-part thriller *Natural Lies*, a controversial and polemical piece about the danger of BSE spreading to human beings.

In 1993 Peck's performance as Rutherford in *Githa Sowerby's Rutherford and Son* at the National Theatre was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award. Last year he had a part in a radio play by Howard Brenton about Suez, with Alec McCowen and Trevor Peacock, and was seen on television in the unpleasant tale of rural perversion *The Scold's Bridle*.

Bob Peck's cancer was diagnosed several years ago, just before he was due to fly to Australia to act the part of a cancer specialist in *Children of the Dragon*. He had surgery and did not work for several months. He is survived by his wife and by their son and two daughters.

BOB PECK



Peck in 1985, the year that *Edge of Darkness* made him a television star — of a rather forbidding kind

A highly adaptable and accomplished actor, Bob Peck was well known to audiences at both the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, and had appeared in many films and television dramas, often of a socially committed kind. As he said when he played Tom Paine at the Donmar Warehouse in 1989: "It's nice to be able to sympathise with what you're having to say."

He had acted in *Father Ayckbourn* and Chekhov, playedago at Stratford and appeared in more than 20 television parts, and in 1993 he came to international attention when he appeared in the dinosaur movie *Jurassic Park*. Particularly after his success in the television drama *Edge of Darkness*, he tended to be cast in court, introspective parts, but he also enjoyed comedy when the chance arose.

The son of a Yorkshire insurance man and the second of three brothers, Bob Peck did a diploma at Leeds College of Art and was a keen amateur actor, but not initially sure what career to follow. He had been with the National Youth Theatre in London as a teenager, but loathed it. He was painting scenery when he was offered his first acting job at Alan Ayckbourn in Scarborough: Mr Whatnot in *Mr Whatnot*.

Several years of touring in rep followed, until he finally auditioned for a David Storey play at

the Royal Court. After that, he did a short stint in Birmingham before joining the RSC in 1975.

There he began by playing Malvolio on regional tour; he would eventually go on to play Macbeth, Caliban and Edward Bond's Lear in a single season. "By the time I got to Endebardus," he recalled, "I was so tired I kept falling asleep during the rehearsals." Along the way he had a part in the RSC's enormously successful *Nicholas Nickleby* and in the subsequent film.

Rather reticent and more shy about his feelings than many in his profession, he was occasionally known as "Pause Peck" because of his Yorkshire silences. He was respected as a good company actor, however, and was given parts by most of the RSC directors, including Ronald Eyre, Howard Davies, Barry Kyle, John Caird, Adrian Noble and Bill Alexander.

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WILLIAM PLEETH

William Pleeth, cellist, died on April 6 aged 83. He was born on January 12, 1916.

WILLIAM PLEETH was one of Britain's finest cellists, whose renown as a teacher was spread even wider through his most celebrated pupil, Jacqueline du Pré. She was sent to study with him when she was ten, and her progress was such that she won the Suggia Cif in the next year, and a year later still, at Pleeth's recommendation, made her first public appearance with a brilliant performance of Lab's Cello Concerto at the Guildhall School of Music under Norman Del Mar.

Some film from later in her career shows teacher and pupil in duets, with Pleeth happily setting and following example, the music passing between them as a creative conversation. She liked to refer to him as her "cello daddy". He was much less happy when it was falsely alleged that he had coached her actress for the recent film *Ian and Jackie*, from which he sharply dissociated himself.

Pleeth was a major artist in his own right, whose career had gone further and higher with a greater drive of oblique ambition. As it was, he became best known as a chamber musician. Born in London, he studied from the age of seven at the London Academy and London College school. He then went to Leipzig to Julius Döngel, a dry rist but a skilled and responsive teacher whose pupils had

included Suggia, Feuermann and Piatigorsky. Pleeth made his debut there with the Gewandhaus Orchestra in 1932 in Haydn's concerto, then his British debut at the Royal Hall in London in the following year.

His vigorous and impassioned musicianship (well matched to the strong, warm tone he drew from his 1732 Stradivarius) quickly brought him to public attention, both as a soloist for whom various composers were happy to write works and as a sonata player. He toured internationally and his recordings include much admired performances of sonatas by Brahms, Mendelssohn and Grieg.

In 1936 Pleeth joined the Amadeus Quartet, remaining with them until 1941; he was also cellist of the Allegri Quartet from its foundation in 1953 until 1967. Members of both quartets considered him the finest chamber music cellist they had worked with, one who did not say much in rehearsal but who contributed immensely to their performances.

He was also in demand by other quartets for works requiring an extra cello. With the Amadeus Quartet he frequently played Schubert's C major Quintet, in whose sublime Adagio the extra cello becomes something of a soloist in its own right, duetting with the first violin. Pleeth's artistry with the Amadeus leader,

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THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY APRIL 8 1999

BALKANS WAR

Macedonia evicts 30,000 refugees

The United Nations led the condemnation yesterday of a midnight raid by Macedonian troops to evict 30,000 refugees from their makeshift camp on the border. There was further alarm as the Serbs suddenly closed their borders at Blace and Jazinc, ordering thousands of ethnic Albanians back to their homes in Kosovo. Nato officers fear they will be now used as human shields against allied attacks..... Reports, pages 1, 49

Cameras stalk Serbs

Yugoslav troops and paramilitaries are being monitored by an array of Western surveillance technology in the sky. When they dare to venture out, it is just a question of time before Nato bombers arrive..... Page 4

Human shields used

Consistently wrong-footing his Nato enemies, President Milosevic came up with a horrific new tactic: keeping Kosovo's remaining ethnic Albanians as human shields against Nato airstrikes on his armour and infantry rather than expelling them..... Page 7

NEWS

Mardi Gras bomber faces long jail term

A 61-year-old man who waged a three-and-a-half-year campaign of terror across London and the Home Counties yesterday admitted he was the Mardi Gras bomber. Edgar Pearce faces a lengthy jail term after admitting that he tried to extort millions of pounds from Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's. Pearce, unemployed, planted a total of 36 explosive devices, the Old Bailey was told..... Pages 1-3

Contraception U-turn

The government has reversed policy on its advice on contraceptive pills. Four years after its health warnings caused widespread panic among women and led to an estimated 30,000 abortions, the government said it "regretted" the abortions..... Page 13

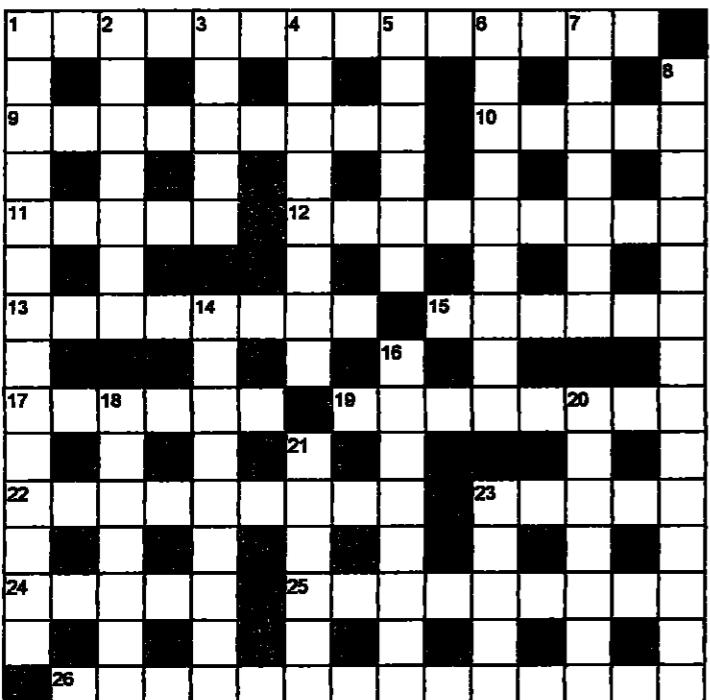
British tourist dies

A British schoolgirl has died in Australia while taking part in the increasingly popular adventure sport of canyoning, which involves hurtling along narrow river gorges and abseiling down waterfalls..... Page 11

'Minor' painting is a Gainsborough

A small painting that Christie's labelled as the work of a minor 19th-century artist, worth no more than £800, has been identified as a previously unknown landscape by Thomas Gainsborough worth at least £80,000. The 18th-century work was spotted by Angus Neill, of Felder Fine Art in London, who said: "I knew it was the best picture I'd ever seen in my life"..... Page 16

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,072



ACROSS

- In many ways, it can help to reduce minor accidents (5,5).
- Like individual I detained for slander (9).
- Was a jumper extremely loose fitting? (5).
- A peg before opening time (3).
- First-rate opportunity to get place in college (9).
- Nick drink and get arrested (3,5).
- One chap joining another back in the doghouse (9).
- Drop line to university, having been rejected the month before (6).
- Report indicating gun was loaded? (8).
- Leader can take it, ideal or otherwise (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 21.071

TAILORS DUMMY
R O D B P M I D A
EVEN'S REBELLION
A A T I R E E A G
DALLIANCE SABLE
N G L E E L
ENWRAP PLACATES
A I T A O E
DOGGEREL AMUSED
E E M N F E
TORSO PLUTOCRAT
A I U O T R O E
CONUNDRUM TIMON
H G C A E E A T
BELLIGERENT

- Painter with a fantastic talent in business (9).
- Call for Jacks in every round of cards possible with pack (3,5,2,4).
- Remarkable formation of Ulster – was it US agency involved with it? (6,8).
- Profit from an adventure (7).
- Brass or steel (5).
- One who trains regularly should consider this a good deal (4,4).
- Two sorts of evil character in Arabian Nights (6).
- Weapons found in far from friendly nick, we hear (4,5).
- Force Spitfire to move in a circle (7).
- Falling over book left in buffer or bar, causing difficulty (9,5).
- In love with way one offers unconventional treatment (9).
- Striking strings to make rough notes, perhaps (8).
- Old bairnies making short work of silly man? (7).
- Plant providing most of the fibre (7).
- It holds food that's originally from South America (3,3).
- Boy has a pound in cash (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0336 644 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 641 244
PCB and Link Roads 0336 641 247
Sporting Information 0336 641 910
Channel cruises 0336 641 280
Metlink to Harbourmaster & Coastguards 0336 647 201

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The Met Office
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N. West 410 326 National Satellites 410 340
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Hours of Darkness

Sun rises: 6.21 am Sun sets: 2.09 pm

Moon sets: 10.50 am Moon rises: 2.09 am

Last quarter tomorrow 7.44 pm to 6.19 am

Bristol 7.54 pm to 6.29 am

Edinburgh 8.04 pm to 6.24 am

Manchester 7.56 pm to 6.25 am

Penzance 8.02 pm to 6.43 am

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Meggy turns to dance

Arts, page 36



BUSINESS • ARTS • BOOKS • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 8 1999

Neville Marriner at 75
Arts, page 37

Exporters baffled by banana war ruling



BY CARL MORTISHED AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

WORRIED British exporters to America were left in a state of confusion yesterday after the European Commission failed to admit defeat in its long-running banana war with the United States.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, said that Europe deserved its right to appeal, while at the same time insisting that it would abide by World Trade Organisation rules. He said: "The unilateral US retaliation currently in place against EU exports has been and remains largely illegal."

Barsbfsky: trade test for Brussels

Washington, which is claiming victory in the banana war over trade restrictions between the two continents, poured scorn on the apparent Brussels' prevarication yesterday. Peter Scher, a US trade official, said: "The arbitrator's decision is final and the EU does not have the right to appeal."

A WTO arbitrator yesterday awarded \$101 million in damages to the US, and a WTO panel ruled that aspects of the EU's preferential import regime for Caribbean bananas were illegal.

EU lawyers in Brussels were last night poring over the 160-page report from the WTO panel in Geneva. The report is not being released to the public, and delay will fuel

further anxiety among embattled cashmere knitwear firms in the Scottish Borders. Mills around Hawick used a visit by Peter Chase, economic adviser to the US Embassy in London, to call on America to remove cashmere from the potential sanctions list and so safeguard 1,000 jobs. The Borders has been hardest hit by the banana war as almost half of all European and 90 per cent of British cashmere comes from the region.

The US has seen its original target list of exports worth \$520 million cut to \$191 million. A spokesman for the US Trade Representative said a revised list of import products would be issued in a couple of days but the UK is likely to figure large as a key sup-

porter of Caribbean banana growers. The UK Department of Trade & Industry was unable yesterday to offer any reassurance to British exporters. The confusion is in part caused by the lack of any precedent. A WTO trade expert explained: "No previous dispute has ever reached this stage before arbitration and implementation."

Led by Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, Washington has been using the banana dispute to test Brussels' commitment to the WTO rules. Beyond the banana row, another dispute is brewing over the EU ban on imports of US hormone-treated beef.

Leading article, page 23

Business Today

Commentary:
Put off by a bruised Reed 29
Stock Market:
Pearson stutters 30
Equity prices 33
Unit trusts 34



Graham Searjeant

The two faces of capitalism in Sunderland

page 32

STOCK MARKET INDICES

	FTSE 100	5473.2	(+57.9)
FTSE All Share	n/a		
Nikkei	16554.59	(+74.79)	
New York:			
Dow Jones	9975.70	(+12.31)*	
S&P Composite	1316.89	(+1.00)*	

US RATE

	Federal Funds	4.9%	(4.1%)
Long bond	8.97%	(9.0%)	
Vtch	5.51%	(5.52%)	

LONDON MONEY

	3-month interbank	5.4%	(5.3%)
Libor long gilt future (Jun)	117.99	(117.95)	

STERLING

	New York	1.5974*	(1.5910)
London			
€	1.5955	(1.5989)	
\$	1.4773		
JPY	2.3585	(2.3582)	
Yen	151.34	(122.47)	
T Index	101.9	(101.7)	

US DOLLAR

	London	1.0785*	(1.0632)
€			
JPY	1.4933	(1.4750)	
Yen	121.37	(120.60)	
T Index	108.9	(108.0)	
Tokyo close Yen	120.82		

NORTH SEA OIL

	Brnt 3-day (Jun.)	\$14.75	(\$14.93)
London close		\$260.05	(\$279.06)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates page 28

Commentary, page 29



The site of the proposed Baglan Bay energy park, which Labour says is not "a ruse on the eve of the Welsh elections"

Byers approves gas station

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Government yesterday did a U-turn on its energy policy by clearing the way for a £300 million new gas-fired power station in Wales, just weeks before elections for the Welsh Assembly.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said that the station at Baglan Bay

would not be blocked by the current "stricter consents policy" on new gas-fired stations. The *de facto* moratorium was announced last October in order to create a more balanced energy market amid a rush to the coal industry and a rush to use gas in power generation.

Mr Byers said the plans by

General Electric and BP

Amoco would bring exceptional economic benefits and regeneration prospects. It has been claimed that up to 6,000 jobs will be created by the establishment of an energy park around the station with companies moving in to take cheap power.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "This is rank electioneering. Labour clearly believes the Welsh elections are worth a few closed pits in England. How many jobs will go as a result of this electoral gesture?"

CoalPro, the coal industry trade association, is to write to Mr Byers to urge him to keep the moratorium in place. It is

concerned that recent comments by Calum McCarthy and Mr Byers could result in an early end to the ban and lead to fresh uncertainty for coal producers.

The new gas station will push out about one million tonnes of coal as the market for the fuel is already sharply declining. The current coal burn in electricity generation is only about 40 million tonnes.

Peter Hain, the Welsh Office Minister, said: "This shows that the Labour Government is delivering for the people of Wales. But it is not a device or a ruse on the eve of the Welsh elections."

The Baglan Bay project, which still needs planning consents, will aim to develop 1,000 acres of industrial land. It is being backed by the Welsh Development Agency.

The power station is by far the largest to escape the moratorium. Smaller schemes with a large amount of environmental friendly combined heat and power (CHP) have bypassed the ban. Baglan Bay's CHP element is speculative, the Government has conceded.

Other power companies are now expected to press for gas-station consents.

Commentary, page 29

BT takes stake in SmarTone

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday increased its presence in the Asia-Pacific region with the £240 million purchase of a 20 per cent stake in SmarTone, Hong Kong's third-largest mobile telephone operator.

Alfred Mockett, president and chief executive of BT Worldwide, said the deal was "an avenue to expansion in the greater China marketplace".

The SmarTone purchase takes BT's investments in minority stakes in the region to nearly £1 billion. As Asia-Pacific is seen as the engine of growth in telecoms markets

BT believes that mobile penetration in Hong Kong will grow from its present 40 per cent to 60 per cent by 2001.

In the year to June 1998 SmarTone, a Hong Kong-listed company in which the Kwok family holds a 26 per cent stake, had profits of HK\$1 billion (£80 million).

Tempus, page 30

was talking to a number of partners and looking at ways of increasing its stake in Japan, the world's second-largest telecoms market.

SmarTone is third in a market of six mobile operators in Hong Kong with an 18 per cent market share and more than half a million customers.

BT believes that mobile penetration in Hong Kong will grow from its present 40 per cent to 60 per cent by 2001.

In the year to June 1998 SmarTone, a Hong Kong-listed company in which the Kwok family holds a 26 per cent stake, had profits of HK\$1 billion (£80 million).

BT also has a 20 per cent stake in the Philippines-based mobile operator GLOBE.

BT's chairman, Sir Michael Jackson, said: "We are pleased to have secured a significant stake in SmarTone, which is well positioned to benefit from the rapid growth in mobile telecommunications in Asia-Pacific."

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The long sought after new chief executive of Reed Elsevier was, apparently, on the brink of signing his contract when he changed his mind. And who can blame him? Any reasonable chap might have had second thoughts about entering a boardroom where the atmosphere had become quite so poisonous.

The tensions were not new but had been festering for years, and they were not of the creative kind. Since Pierre Vinken and Loek van Vollenhoven have now dounced out, they have conveniently cast themselves as the villains of the piece but boards that allowed such destructive nastiness to persist must assume some joint responsibility.

It seems that the two sides of this Anglo-Dutch venture never were as one. The complicated structure of the business undoubtedly made it harder for the obstacles to harmony and international understanding to be ejected but surely the non-executive directors must have reached the pitch when they felt some action had to be taken, even if it was only their own resignation? Shareholders do not expect people such as Sir Christopher Lewington, the TI chairman, to sit passively by while a business is threatened by fighting factions.

Yet the directors of Reed seem to have been impotent in the face

of an elderly, but very determined Dutchman. Pierre Vinken was in his late sixties when he plonked himself in the way of the plans of the then chief executive, Peter Davis.

To hear the sighs of relief emanating from Reed yesterday, one might have thought that the board had successfully fought off some young Turk instead of finally waving off a septuagenarian. That there is still the little matter of a vacant chief executive's role to be settled was almost brushed aside amidst the welcoming of a new era at the company.

Investors will want the job filled before they can contemplate joining in the celebrations. In any other company, they might now be raising their hopes to the possibility of an opportunistic bidder pouncing while the vacuum at the top remains. But the corporate structure that has dogged the business for so long also provides a degree of protection against a bidder.

Clever investment bankers ought to be able to find a way of surmounting such obstacles. For Reed Elsevier's dismal share

price performance disguises a business which is full of potential for the new millennium.

The company is at the heart of the information age. It has been investing heavily in electronic publishing. If the new management structure which comes into play next week enables concentration on the business instead of international hostilities, there might even be an enticing job for a brave chief executive.

Bay watchers see an energy precedent set

Ever since announcing in the Energy White Paper that it would be taking a strict line on agreeing to new gas-fired power stations, the Government has been at pains to say that the curb does not amount to a moratorium.

Now we can see that it actually amounts to very little. The "stricter consensus policy" is clearly being applied in such a loose fashion that a coach and horses could happily canter through it — especially if elections were following not far behind. Purely by coincidence, the decision yesterday not to block the 500-megawatt station at Baglan Bay comes just days before the Government has to go into purdah over anything that might influence the Welsh and Scottish assembly elections.

The power station is by far the largest that has skipped through a non-moratorium designed to create some sort of diversity, security and sustainability in the energy market. The station's environmentally friendly credentials — the main criterion by which the Department of Trade and Industry will entertain exceptions to the rule — are not clearly laid

out. The promise that an energy park will grow up around the station and deliver up to 6,000 jobs is vague, but it should sound good to Welsh voters.

The gas station will reduce the need for about one million tonnes of coal out of an already sharply declining market. Yet the Energy White Paper's main purpose had been to level the energy market amid a dash for gas and potential crisis in the coal industry. Some said at its publication — only last October — that the paper delayed only weak proposals to balance the market. The apparent moratorium on gas-fired power stations was its most powerful tool while we await a hugely complex and lengthy reformulation of the electricity trading market. But if the moratorium was a mirage, the whole thing seems a waste of time.

It may be claimed that the Bag-

lan Bay proposal offers such economic benefits and promise of regeneration that it should be allowed to fly in the face of policy. But just wait for the queue of power companies outside Stephen Byers's door claiming the same attributes. This move has created a precedent.

When interest rates are immaterial

Dewhurst is what now passes for a British textile business: it makes men's shirts in Indonesia and children's clothes in Casablanca.

On the bright side, in Wales, it has what it claims is the most modern garment laundering plant in Europe, so while there is little hope for skilled machinists, there may still be hope for the washerwomen of Britain.

But Dewhurst closed six British factories last year as it took production off-shore and not even a half-point cut in interest rates today would stop this migration of manufacturing continuing. The company can only meet the de-

mands of its major customer, Marks & Spencer, by heading to the lands of cheap labour. The introduction of the minimum wage may have exacerbated the gap between the costs of having a blouse run up in Morocco or Manchester but it was already so big as to make the decision to move a no brainer.

The same reasoning will see manufacturing jobs in other sectors continue to flee. Yesterday, the Engineering Employers Federation conjured up a figure of 170,000 jobs which might vanish from the UK over the next couple of years. But despite timing the prediction in the hope of influencing the MPC, the EEF must know that the problem is beyond the reach of interest rates.

Green fingers

Philip Green is wasting little time in parcelling out Sears. The former owners repeatedly failed to sell the Freemans mail order business, succeeding only in presiding over its deterioration and shrinking worth. Mr Green had no doubt of Otto's keenness to take over the company and the price the company would pay coloured his own thinking in valuing Sears. He did not achieve the £95 million that Sir Bob Reid dreamed of but he was a happy man yesterday.

BICC's cable disposal attracts Wassall back

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

BICC yesterday announced the sale of the last of its troublesome cable businesses, immediately triggering a new take-over offer from Wassall, the industrial conglomerate.

Wassall, which already has 9.3 per cent of BICC, said last night that it was prepared to raise its offer for the company to 22 per cent, to 110p a share, but said that it would not make an official bid without the support of the BICC board.

The proposed offer values BICC at £463 million. However, Alan Jones, BICC's chief executive, rejected the revised proposal, saying that it still failed to recognise the company's value and prospects.

The announcements com-

bined to lift BICC shares 12p to 106p.

The sale of BICC's energy cables division for £275 million completes a restructuring programme that BICC hopes will restore some of its former glory. The deal takes the amount raised from the company's asset disposal programme to £886 million in the past six months and leaves Balfour Beatty, the engineering and construction group, as BICC's key profit-generator.

However, BICC gave warning that the latest sale would have a negative impact on earnings until administration costs were cut and the sale proceeds were reinvested.

Mr Jones said that, in the

meantime, funds from the disposal would be used to eliminate BICC's remaining debt of almost £200 million.

The warning prompted analysts to downgrade their 1999 pre-tax profit forecasts by about 10 per cent, to between £70 million and £72 million.

However, the stock market showed its faith in the long-term benefits of the restructuring plan, marking up BICC shares by 5p several hours before the Wassall announcement.

The process has underpinned steady recovery in BICC shares from a 12-month low of 83p in October. However, this compares with 180p last May and 449p five years

ago. Since then, profits from fibre and cables have been eroded by technological developments and oversupply, and the stock has lost its place in the FTSE 100 index.

Chris Miller, Wassall's chief executive, yesterday said: "We believe that without our interest, the BICC share price would fall substantially below its current level".

Michael Bogg, an analyst with Charnierhouse Securities, said: "BICC's prospects are pretty good. There was no strategic reason to have cables and construction together, and this sale will make the group more coherent."

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Dewhurst downbeat on outlook

DEWHIRST, one of Marks & Spencer's largest suppliers of clothing and toiletries, saw its profits hit last year and was upbeat about prospects for the current half (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The dramatic drop in consumer demand in the second half of the year and a cut in the group's operating margin from 8.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent meant that although sales rose from £363.6 million to £380.2 million, pre-tax profit in the year to January 15 fell from £31.4 million to £23 million.

The company was also hit by £2.2 million costs after the closure of six factories. On earnings per share of 13.29p (16.72p) the company is paying a final dividend of 4p, giving a total of 5.45p (5.4p). Commentary, this page

Second bid for snooker group

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CUES have been drawn in the murky world of snooker halls after Waterfall Holdings, the UK's second-biggest cue-sports group, launched a hostile £41 million bid for European Leisure, the market leader.

European, which is already the subject of an agreed takeover by Allied Leisure, the Burger King restaurants and ten-pin bowling operator, immediately rejected the all-paper offer and advised its shareholders to accept the Al-

lied deal.

Waterfall, in which European has a 24 per cent stake, is offering 203.5 of its own shares for every 100 European shares.

At Waterfall's current price of 56.6p, the offer values its target at 115p a share, compared with last night's 85p close. It is

also at a premium to Allied's offer, which, at its launch a month ago, was worth 99p a share, or £35.4 million.

However, European called into question the value of Waterfall's paper, claiming that there is a bid premium from its own shareholding in the company.

It also cast doubts on Waterfall's accounts, claiming that its profits had been inflated by exceptional items.

Martin Callan, Waterfall's chief executive, said that the bid, launched after the market closed last night, offered European shareholders a bigger slice of the cake, as they would emerge with 70 per cent of the combined group compared with just 52 per cent in the Al-

lied deal.

Waterfall, in which European

ICG gives warning on junk bonds

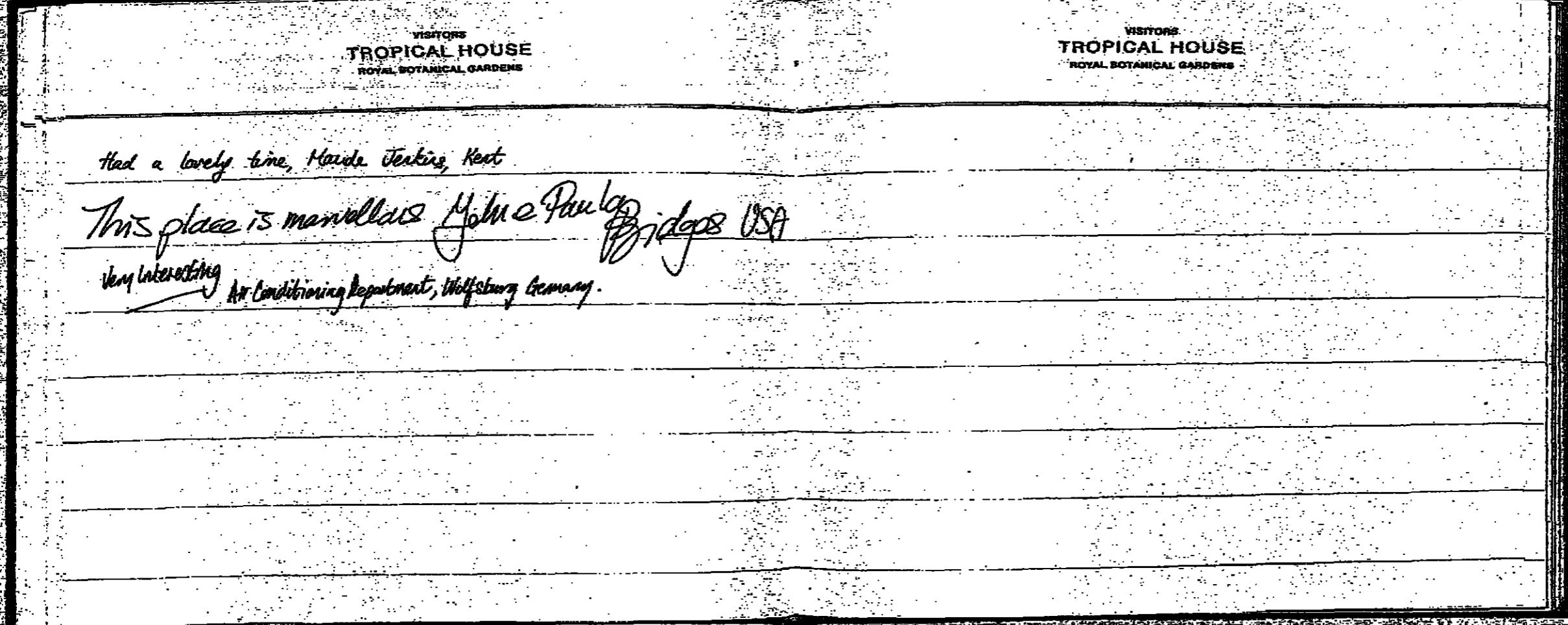
INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the specialist finance house, gave warning yesterday that the use of junk bonds in unit trusts aimed at the retail market could short change consumers (Caroline Merrill writes).

ICG, a provider of mezzanine finance for small UK business, said it is raising the concern because the structure of bonds in the UK is different to the US where the market is much more advanced.

In the event of corporate collapse in the US, holders of junk bonds had some rights to assets that could be recovered. In the UK the same rules do not apply.

ICG said it has taken up the matter with the fund managers concerned.

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Barring the last-minute intervention of a good fairy, the Vaux brewery in the centre of Sunderland will close by July 2. A brewing tradition going back to 1837, maintained ever since by the Nicholson family heirs to Cuthbert Vaux, will end in chaos and the loss of 520 jobs.

Derek Foster, a prominent Sunderland-born Labour MP and Chris Mullin, one of the town's present Labour MPs, have both damned the closure as "the unacceptable face of capitalism". Understandably so. The axe will fall, in the end, because management buy-out proposals aimed at saving the brewery fell somewhere between £5 million and £20 million short of the benefits that the renamed Swallow Group reckons it can gain by selling its pubs, closing breweries and buying beer for its hotels and bars from the cheapest supplier.

The unacceptable face, though an overused phrase, still carries a wealth of meaning. It was first coined a generation ago by Sir Edward Heath, when as Prime Minister he was asked in Parliament

Capitalism's two ambivalent faces

about the affairs of Lonrho. The sin that inspired the Prime Minister's well-turned curse was an earl airing of boardroom excess. Lonrho relied on the foreign responsibilities of key directors to pay them secretly in tax havens abroad and avoided punitive tax rates then levied in the UK.

The late Tiny Rowland, presiding genius of Lonrho, had several unacceptable faces. On this occasion, capitalism and the voters eventually backed the buccaneer. After a board battle that dragged memorably through the courts and exposed a lot worse than dodgy boardroom pay, massed shareholders backed Mr. Rowland. And today, neither Sir Edward nor even Messrs Foster and Mullin would support a return to 1970s tax rates.

Selling such a big chunk of manufacturing jobs for "a few pence on

the share price" as one critic put it, is still disastrous, even if it seems to Swallow investors. The board under Sir Paul Nicholson, who had been managing director for 27 years and also chairman for 25, backed the buyout to save the brewery. But key institutional shareholders, such as Mercury and Hermes, put legitimate pressure on other directors to make sure that any deal produced the maximum value for shareholders.

The result is an ugly face of capitalism. But what is the unacceptable face? Is it the closure or the failures of judgment and corporate governance that led to so disorderly an end?

Two key factors underlay the Vaux drama. One is the gap that has developed on the stock market between international growth stocks and the smaller mature groups depending on the home



GRAHAM
SEAL JEANT

for growth in multinationals. Such investors have inevitably become ever more demanding of changes to drum up "shareholder value".

The brewing industry has also been undergoing a painful revolution that few predicted correctly at the time of the brewing orders almost a decade ago. The pub, once seen merely as the tied distribution monopoly of the brewery, became the focal point. Like hotels, they were properties that the City was happy to invest in. Deals proliferated. Nomura of Japan now owns a tenth of all UK pubs.

Breweries became unloved manufacturing plants. They now compete on price like any commodity supplier, unless they have managed to develop products that people want to buy for choice rather than just finding them in the local tied outlet. Even beloved local brews can be produced by special-

ists. Vaux failed either to turn itself into a big growth stock or to adapt to the changing beer market. Sir Paul was not idle. He built a successful diversification into Swallow hotels, which now makes three quarters of group profit, but left the old-fashioned regional brewery with tied outlets as Vaux's cultural centre. It was also the symbol of the family tradition of public service and loyalty to all stakeholders.

Sadly, the family only owned 2 per cent, roughly one fifteenth of the minimum stake needed to qualify as a family business. And shareholders did nothing to blend the twin duties of the board properly. In 1995, a management study concluded that the future lay in Swallow hotels and that the Vaux business should go. The board, whose independent directors included a brother-in-law and former senior employee, rejected

it. This failure of corporate governance has served the people of Sunderland ill. Had the Nicholsons been obliged to see the writing on the wall, they could have split the business in two or driven the brewery in a different direction.

In the end, only the emergency of a takeover approach last summer forced Sir Paul to appoint an outside chief executive who demanded the obvious through persisting in the process. City fund managers, who hate privileged family dynasties with a passion that would have suited Robespierre, distrusted a last-minute buyout led by Sir Paul's brother Frank, who ran the brewery. Its fate was sealed.

Had modern capitalism worked as in the textbook, the transition at Vaux should at least have been more civilised. That does not mean it would be comfortable. The catty face is entrepreneurs having great ideas, expanding and creating jobs. The other, ugly but just as vital face of capitalism is market forces and efficient firms putting others out of business. It will always be so.

Reed Elsevier seeks to put its troubles firmly in the past

Latest board split highlights longrunning problems, says Raymond Snoddy



Publishing division: Reed Elsevier's board members in 1994, from left, Nigel Stapleton, Ian Irvine, Loeck van Vollenhoven and Pierre Vinken. Three have gone, along with Sir Peter Davis, top right. Morris Tabakblat, bottom right, joins next week

Just when it seemed that things couldn't get any worse at Reed Elsevier, the international information and publishing group, they do. Two directors resign, the board is in turmoil and, most serious of all, the hunt for a new chief executive has stalled after a global search that has already lasted eight months. This comes on top of last year's scandal at Reed Travel Business, when the company had to make provisions of £200 million to compensate advertisers for inflated circulation claims for directories. The company has also been hit by the high cost of investing in the transition from paper to electronic publishing not to mention increasing competition in some of its key legal information markets in the US.

It was hardly surprising that the Reed International share price fell more than 4 per cent at one stage yesterday on news of the interrupted executive search. The surprise was that it did not fall even more sharply. Cynical analysts suggested yesterday that there was a floor for the share price based on the belief that if things got too bad the value could always be extracted by a takeover.

Some investors were even heard to mutter that if the un-

wieldy Anglo-Dutch management structure continued to destroy value then it might be better to admit to an honest mistake and, after six years of Reed Elsevier, reverse the process and go for a demerger.

Perversely a number of senior figures close to the company were suggesting that Tuesday's special board meeting produced some rather good news. This follows the immediate resignations of Pierre Vinken, the 71-year-old former co-chairman, and Loeck van Vollenhoven, who is 68. Though the resignations were largely symbolic — the two were due to retire at next week's annual meeting —

Bad blood that can flow across borders

Anglo-Dutch tiffs have as long a history as successful business ventures between the two nations, the best examples of which are the Royal Dutch/Shell and Unilever groups. Both companies have dual parents, listed in Amsterdam and London with share prices that trade independently and both have an inner circle of executive managers that runs the group.

However, there is no love lost between the two sides from its inception in 1907. Shell was a product of the profound respect that stems from bitter rivalry. Marcus Samuel, the East End Jewish trader who founded Shell Transport & Trading was outfoxed by Henri

Detharding, the ruthless Dutch accountant who led Royal Dutch Petroleum. Thus Royal Dutch secured a majority 60 per cent share of the oil group, a structure that remains to this day.

Curiously, both Shell and Unilever reformed their management structures three years ago, both seeking to focus on product lines, thus reducing the influence of regional structures.

A continental affection for consensus is giving way to the Anglo-American obsession with bottom-line responsibility. But, whereas Unilever's efforts to streamline the sprawling multinational have been largely successful, Shell has stumbled.

Perhaps the key difference between the two is the reluctance of Shell to appoint a chief executive with ultimate responsibility. Mark Moody Stuart, head of Shell's committee of managing directors, is *primum inter pares* rather than boss. At Unilever, no one doubts the authority of Niall FitzGerald. Reed Elsevier should take note.

CARL MORTISHED

New play

YOU cannot keep a good man down. The entrepreneur behind Ionica, the mobile phone business that was one of the great corporate disasters of this decade, has quietly set up in business again.

Nigel Playford is operating out of a technology park next door to the old Ionica headquarters in Cambridge. He has set up Albera Networks, described on its nascent website as "a telecoms consulting group specialising in wireless local loops".

This was what Ionica spe-



**THE
TIMES**
**CITY
DIARY**

the Whiskas cat and the one on boxes of Go-Cat, this having been based on his surviving moggie Django. I wish him luck and point him in the right direction.

Handy hints

CHARLES HANDY, the management guru, will address the annual Booksellers Association conference on Monday. This shows an uncommon degree of forgiveness, because last time Handy was invited to give his views, at the 1995 meeting, he was booted.

Handy is not a great fan of the business, thinking it aloof and slow to cope with change. Last time he upset delegates by telling them the end of the

calculated in, of course, until last year when the receivers went in just 15 months after its stock market float. Playford is reckoned to have lost almost everything in that crash.

There is not much left of his creation except for the odd rusting base station in fields here and there and some unhappy investors who wish they had never heard of Ionica. I ring to offer Playford my best wishes, but for some reason he is not returning calls.

I AM approached by Peter Warner, who reckons to be the well, the cat's whiskers at drawing logos featuring cats. He has read the story in yesterday's Times about the group of banks and other financial services providers that want one such logo to show which of the new individual savings accounts, or Isa's, meet the necessary Treasury criteria.

Warner is keen to offer his services. He studied at the Royal Academy and then drifted into depictions of things feline after a career drawing children's books — he produced about 50, "and my overdraft went up with every one".

He is already responsible for

Net Book Agreement would be a good thing. This time, according to an interview with *The Bookseller*, he will be singing the praises of on-line retailers such as Amazon.com, which should go down equally well. Publishers, he says, are "even worse" than booksellers. "They haven't a clue how to sell books other than through bookshops."

A RETIRED corporate solicitor has just completed a bust of Marie Curie to be installed at the Marie Curie Cancer Care head office in Belgrave Square at the end of this month.

Frederick Parkhouse was senior counsel for Shell for 24 years, a job whose long hours required him to abandon an earlier hobby as a sculptor. He took it up again on his retirement five years ago.

The Marie Curie request came through the encouragement of his wife Josephine, who does work for the charity, and took three or four months to complete. I ring to congratulate Parkhouse, who turns out to be celebrating his 70th birthday yesterday.

Bank on it

GOOD news for Barclays staff, some of whom, I hear, are beginning to wonder just

what has happened to Michael O'Neill, the bank's new chief executive. He will definitely, no question of it, without fail, start on Monday — two weeks late.

The reason for his delay was that he had to tie some things up in the States — he hadn't finished his job there," says a Barclays source. But hang on, I thought he had flu? "Ex, it's a mix of lots of different things really," Barclays backtracks.

So as the saying goes, women have colds and men have flu. And high-powered American bankers have things to tie up.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



"Bet she couldn't find a chief executive for Reed Elsevier"

How many telecoms managers does it take to [change] your mind?

When telecoms managers recently voted Energis No.1 for quality of service, it was a real recommendation from the people who really matter. Not a claim, not a promise, but proof that we are committed to delivering quality of service to our customers — day in, day out.

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* The 1997 TMA Chairman's Award for Quality 1997
** Best Business ISP - ISPA 1999
** CPI results

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Internet offers fast route to car sales

Most people find buying a car or searching for a new house a time-consuming and frustrating experience. The two activities also generally involve dealing with people — ie, car salesmen and estate agents — who do not seem to know or care about how technology can speed up their businesses and make life easier for everyone involved. Yet both car dealers and estate agents face a significant threat from the Internet, which is allowing a new breed of technology-savvy entrepreneurs to flourish. In the case of buying a car, the Internet is having the most profound effect where you would expect it least — in the second-hand and classic car markets. Using a service such as autotrader.co.uk, an offshoot of Autotrader magazine,

consumers can gather almost perfect information about the market for the kind of car they are searching for. Autotrader.co.uk will also soon face competition in the form of Autobuyer.com, a US company that is launching a UK service this month.

Sites of this kind allow potential buyers simply to enter the make and model of car they want (say, a BMW 5 series), how much they are willing to pay, and whether they would like to buy from a dealer or a private seller. Then they enter their postcode, and tell the site how far from home they are willing to travel to buy the car.

Within seconds, the potential buyer can view an exhaustive list (including photographs) of all the BMW 5 series cars for sale within a given distance



from home, including prices and detailed descriptions of each vehicle. This kind of information gives a car buyer an enormous advantage, and is, at the moment at least, completely free. If a buyer is aware of all the cars for sale in a local area, he or she is in a very strong bargaining position. By

going back to a site such as autotrader.co.uk every day, they can also see how long a car has been on the market. A few dealers are tackling this threat by putting up their own sites showing pictures of their cars and giving detailed descriptions of them. This will inevitably reassure buyers (after all, a garage can give details of other offers, such as warranties, etc), and is far more likely to entice someone into a showroom than a small advert on Autotrader's Internet site.

Loot's online layout is a bit confusing, it is relatively easy to browse through a sub-section (for example, houses for sale in northwest England), and then refine the search even further, for example, to look for three-bedroom houses for sale in the North West.

Loot also allows users to save a specific search and every time a new advert is placed with Loot that fits those search criteria it sends out an e-mail alerting the potential buyer.

Dell, the US computer manufacturer, has partied company with its advertising agency of 11 years, Moser O'Neill. The \$70 million (£43 million) contract will now be put "in review".

CHRIS AYRES

RAC's shortlist suggests sale of rescue service

BY ROBERT LEA

DRESDNER Kleinwort Benson has whittled down potential buyers of the RAC to a shortlist of six as insiders indicate that a sale of the motoring organisation is more likely than a flotation.

The RAC, led by Sir Michael Angus, the new chairman, is officially sticking to its "two-track strategy" of having its adviser, DKB, and its broker, Cazenove, continuing to look at the options of whether to float or sell to a single buyer in order to get the best return for its 12,000 shareholders.

Insiders, however, are admitting that the recent sharp decline in the number of stock market flotation and the high-profile problems that surrounded the offer of William Hill, the bookmaker, indicate that a sale would not only be quicker but that it could also raise more cash.

The RAC's shareholders — the 12,000 members of the RAC gentlemen's club in London's Pall Mall from which the motoring organisation has now been split — are hoping for windfalls of about £35,000 apiece when the business eventually changes hands.

Cendant, the US group that owns Green Flag, had bid £450 million for the RAC, but



The RAC's Pall Mall base

the takeover was blocked by the Department of Trade and Industry on competition grounds.

According to John Williams, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank adviser is drawing up a shortlist that will evenly balance potential trade buyers and financial buyers.

The would-be buyers include Ford, the US motor company, and Cazenove, the City venture capitalist.

RAC yesterday revealed that the costs of its reorganisation

More than half the costs — £18.5 million — relate to a one-off endowment to the Pall Mall club so that it can continue to act as a lobby organisation on motoring issues. However, about a further £9 million has to be spent on advisers dealing with the reorganisation.

The RAC said that it had also made a £2.1 million provision against former members of the Pall Mall club taking legal action to get a share of the members' windfall.

The organisation said that there had been a further £3.8 million of continuing integration and start-up costs respectively from its takeover of BSM and its joint venture with Traffimaster. There were also £1.5 million of year 2000 computer costs.



Frank Walker, Guiton chairman, issued a costs warning

Guiton profits ahead

GUITON GROUP, the Channel Islands newspaper publisher that bought the Guernsey Evening Press at the end of last year to go alongside its Jersey Evening Post, said profits were up by 10 per cent last year. It gave warning, however,

that the costs of integrating the businesses would hit this year's profits. Pre-tax profits for 1998 came in at £4.3 million, and the company is raising the final dividend to 3.44p (3.13p) for a 10 per cent uplift in the total dividend to 5.64p.

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Shearer gives lesson in strategy

When it comes to budgeting, copy England, says Robert Bittlestone

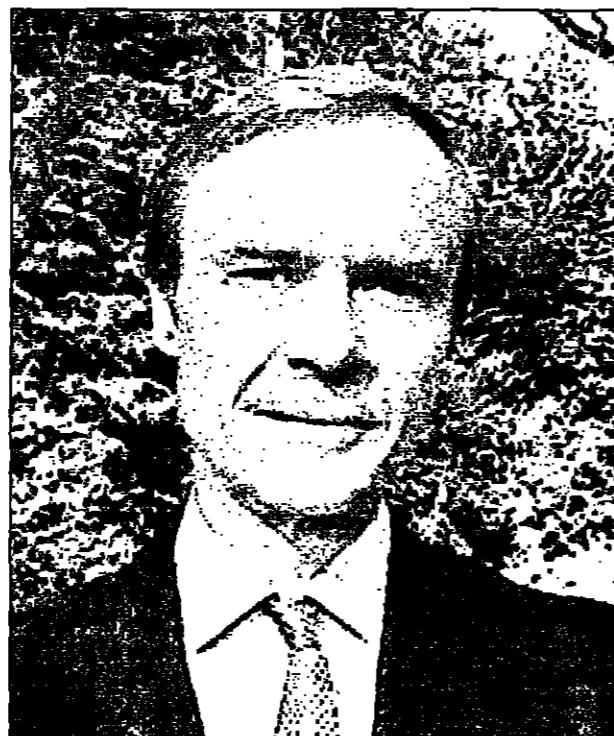
Three quarters of the way through the recent England v Poland football match viewers were surprised to see players huddled in conference while the game continued on the pitch beside them. Apparently they had stopped for a discussion about their objectives for the next game: "We always prepare a detailed plan," said Alan Shearer, "otherwise the players won't know what's expected of them when we play Bulgaria in June."

An unlikely scenario, but that is what happens in big corporations every year. Several months before year end, the ritual war dance called Annual Budgeting begins. Determining next year's objectives occupies about three months — time that is lost from the task of meeting this year's objectives.

In a December year end company the first activity is at the end of the summer when the budget briefing pack is issued. By September the first draft of the budget is required from subsidiaries. In October there is preliminary management comment and in November detailed submission and review, culminating in board approval.

If the business has a matrix structure involving international product groups or customer segments as well as geographical subsidiaries, there are additional layers of complexity.

Most of this time is spent in accessing data, creating budget spreadsheets and revising them



Robert Bittlestone predicts a watershed in budgeting

as required. Relatively little "quality" time is spent in thinking through the fundamental drivers of the business and debating ways in which new decisions could improve the bottom line. Little time is left also to incorporate new goals such as optimising shareholder value.

The process invites political manipulation for any executive whose bonus depends on meeting a negotiated target. It is so much less exhausting to reduce a target than to improve achievement; even Alan Shearer must dream of being able to shift the goalposts.

Some of the halved techniques include: submitting a low forecast for the current year end and then beating it, while conveniently omitting to clarify that the budgeted 20 per cent growth for next year is now really only 12 per cent; creative accounting that releases profit from the balance sheet by manipulating provisions; and farcical masochism which yields under pressure a head office-imposed budget and then takes positive delight in saying "we told you so" when it is missed next year.

So how can we escape this corporate nightmare? Here are some practical alternatives being adopted by a growing number of large corporations:

The world does not stop at midnight on December 31. We should refuse to allow our common sense to be overruled by the proponents of financial eschatology. Instead, we should

establish a continuous forecast on a 12 or 24-month ahead rolling basis. The future cannot be predicted exactly, so we should explicitly incorporate a risk range of possible outcomes in forecasts, rather than a single set of goals.

Performance rewards should be based on beating historic performance and our competitors' achievement, not on budget negotiation skills. If we pay people based on growth against last year set against a benchmark of our competitors' results, then

the political aspects of budgeting become irrelevant.

Interactive graphic models should be used to make explicit the linkage between cause and effect. We should use modern technology to help us to visualise immediately the effect on shareholder value of, say, a reduction in customer payment period from 60 to 40 days.

Automation of these aspects cuts out weeks of "back office" data churning and involves the executive team in visualising the financial dynamics of their busi-

ness as a whole. This focus on graphic rather than purely numeric techniques is deliberate.

These days our children have lavish state-of-the-art technology to simulate the exploits of a James Bond villain or a *Tomb Raider*. Imagine their reaction if they were invited to dispense with that visual imagery and peruse the outcome of their battle decisions as a series of numeric tables. Remarkably, when executives sit down to simulate battle for their companies, that is precisely what they are expected to do.

This is because the ground-work involved is organised by accountants, who no doubt have inherited genes that code for partiality to numeric presentation. However, behavioural studies make it clear that most line managers do not share the same genes and do not digest corporate information effectively via tabular presentations.

Senior managers have historically been uncomfortable with the personal use of technology, apart perhaps for e-mail. Even that still has its sceptics. But as the approaching millennium is a cross-over year in this regard: newly appointed managers in their early thirties have been educated since the 1980s to use computers themselves. By 2005 this microprocessing meteorite will have eradicated the last of the dinosaurs and there will be no more excuses for dedicating a quarter of every year to the production of next year's budget.

Evidently some companies don't intend to wait until then.

Robert Bittlestone is managing director of Metapraxis Ltd.

time, happens to work with an expert witness in a case in which a Lloyd's syndicate is suing Robson's new merger partner, Pannell Kerr Forster. The Chinese walls do not go as far as that. He will still be allowed a social life. The judgment that defines the relevant restrictions considered the hypothetical idea of preventing Attwood "meeting at a Christmas party another partner of Robson Rhodes who, for part of his

case Chancellor of the Exchequer we heard much in favour of the idea of a general anti-avoidance rule, a GAAR, to curb the antisocial behaviour of tax advisers who prefer to keep their money rather than giving too much of it to the Treasury. Now the impracticalities of such a rule have sunk in, there has been much less rattling of Treasury sabres. But tax inspectors are looking out for the Chancellor's holiday plans. Portugal has just introduced a GAAR.

ROBERT BRUCE

WHEN Gordon Brown be-

Chinese walls must be built to last

THE ONE clincher that clients put forward when arguing against the further consolidation of accountancy firms is that of conflict of interest. With only a Big Five group of firms, companies find it an immensely complicated task to select an adviser — in even the simplest of cases — who is not "conflicted out".

When it comes to court work, such as that of expert witnesses, this is not quite so much of a problem. The half a dozen or so firms in the mid-tier were perfectly capable of providing help without much likelihood of problems.

But even they are now starting to consolidate, and the latest efforts to merge, by Robson Rhodes and Pannell Kerr Forster, have provoked a court action that is likely to provide the best guidance that professional firms throughout the City need on Chinese walls.

Whereas the case of KPMG and Prince Jefri Bolkiah, the brother of the Sultan of Brunei, last December dealt with the problems of an overlap of clients, the new case deals with the much more likely problem of professional firms falling over each other.

The Prince Jefri case provides a warning to firms. But it is one of greed. KPMG fell into the trap by behaving like characters from an old *Tom and Jerry* cartoon. As soon as the words "Sultan of Brunei" came up, their eyes started revolving like cash registers. They knew that there was bound to be a conflict. But all those fees... there had to be a way to get around the conflict.

But as the House of Lords finally ruled last December, there was not. Partly this was because of the sheer number of people within KPMG who had worked on the original Prince Jefri project. When it comes to 12 partners, 15 directors, 9 consultants, 43 managers and 18 assistant managers, and a small amount of more than £4 million in fees, it is going to be very difficult to ring-fence that lot when another project to investigate its workings comes into the office.

The lesson learnt in future will simply be that professional firms just don't take up such assignments.

But the Robson Rhodes case is different. Their partner, Frank Attwood, who had triumphed over Ernst & Young in the Merretts case, was asked by a group of Lloyd's names to act as an expert witness

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Scottish software centre for US bank

JP MORGAN, the US investment bank, is to create 300 IT jobs in Scotland with the setting-up of a software applications development centre to design and develop systems to support the bank's European financial services operations. Although a location has yet to be found, the bank wants to set up the operation — in which it is to invest £7.3 million — in the centre of Glasgow. JP Morgan will be hiring highly skilled software engineers, the bank said.

A spokesman for JP Morgan Europe said: "We have chosen to establish a technology centre of excellence in Scotland because it has a mature IT infrastructure and a rich supply of high-quality technology professionals." He added that the new centre will "combine the best of both investment banking and software house cultures". Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said the decision to base the centre in Glasgow came after he met JP Morgan executives in New York. Another US investment bank, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, will today announce a new development at Cumbernauld, Strathclyde, creating 1,000 new jobs.

Midland's Malta deal

MIDLAND BANK, the HSBC Holdings subsidiary, plans to buy a 67 per cent stake in Mid-Med Bank, the biggest bank in Malta, from the Maltese Government. The bank had a net asset value of about \$183 million (£114 million) on September 30, and 60 offices and branches and 1,300 staff. HSBC shares leapt 102p to £2.05 yesterday. The sale is part of a strategy by the Maltese Government gradually to sell its interests in various industries. A Midland spokesman said that the bank would announce further details of the acquisition in a few weeks. Midland was the only bank interested in buying the stake in Mid-Med.

Citadel back in black

CITADEL HOLDINGS, the investor in French property that is quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, said that it made profits of £3 million in 1998 against a loss of £100,000 the previous year. Sten Mortsteud, chairman, said that the company would continue its strategy of acquiring modern, well-located properties in Paris and Lyon. The improvement in the French property market helped to raise the company's net asset value by 33 per cent to £42.1p. The dividend for the year rises to 3p from 0.5p. Citadel shares were unchanged yesterday at 95.1p.

MoD prefers Cobham

COBAHAM, the defence aerospace group, said yesterday that it had been named as the preferred bidder for the Ministry of Defence's electronic warfare training services contract. Cobham's FR Aviation currently operates the contract, which is due for renewal in May 2000. The company said that, although negotiations were continuing, if FR got the renewal it would be worth more than £200 million over the ten-year life of the deal.

Blockleys slips into red

BLOCKLEYS, the brickmaker that recently saw off a hostile bid from Natural Building Materials, slipped into the red last year after a downturn in sales. A 10 per cent decline near the end of the year saw 1998 turnover fall to £9.4 million (£10.3 million). The group recorded a trading loss of £102,000, but after interest payments and the £450,000 cost of defending the bid, the loss was £1 million, against a pre-tax profit of £230,000 in 1997. The final dividend is cut to 0.15p, giving a total of 0.3p (0.45p).

More pressing concerns

IT WAS, of course, the power of the press. This week the effort by Arthur Andersen to poach the KPMG practice in Canada was aborted amid a welter of recriminations. But those in the know suggest that one of the reasons is that press barons like to keep their own company. Rupert Murdoch is chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, and News Corp is audited by Arthur Andersen.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Conrad Black, whose Hollinger company owns *The Daily Telegraph* among other publications, has KPMG Canada as auditors. It is thought that he preferred to stick to the idea that never the twain should meet.

Party on

AT LEAST Robson Rhodes' partner Frank Attwood will be able to go to the odd Christmas party this year. Having been barred from partners'

meetings as a result of being an expert witness in a case in which a Lloyd's syndicate is suing Robson's new merger partner, Pannell Kerr Forster, the Chinese walls do not go as far as that. He will still be allowed a social life. The judgment that defines the relevant restrictions considered the hypothetical idea of preventing Attwood "meeting at a Christmas party another partner of Robson Rhodes who, for part of his

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Record run continues

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

	High	Low	Change	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
574 465 Allied Distillers	350	320	-30	5.5	13.7
575 279 Amstel Lager	350	320	-30	4.2	13.7
576 151 Amstel Pils	350	320	-30	4.2	13.7
577 151 Amstel Red	350	320	-30	4.2	13.7
578 151 Amstel Special	350	320	-30	4.2	13.7
579 151 Amstel Special A	350	320	-30	2.5	13.7
580 222 Amstel Special B	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
581 222 Amstel Special C	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
582 222 Amstel Special D	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
583 222 Amstel Special E	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
584 222 Amstel Special F	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
585 222 Amstel Special G	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
586 222 Amstel Special H	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
587 222 Amstel Special I	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
588 222 Amstel Special J	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
589 222 Amstel Special K	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
590 222 Amstel Special L	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
591 222 Amstel Special M	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
592 222 Amstel Special N	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
593 222 Amstel Special O	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
594 222 Amstel Special P	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
595 222 Amstel Special Q	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
596 222 Amstel Special R	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
597 222 Amstel Special S	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
598 222 Amstel Special T	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
599 222 Amstel Special U	350	320	-30	3.8	11.4
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



DANCE
"I'm JOKING"
John Travolta
goes ballistic
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ARTS

MUSIC
Double tribute
to Sir Neville
Marriner
PAGE 37



NEW MOVIES: John Travolta's yuppie lawyer keeps James Christopher gripped, even without any nymphomaniacs

Legal eagle has a flutter

ACivil Action has none of the Hollywood ingredients of a great courtroom thriller. There are no psychotic attorneys, no heart-clutching car chases, no nymphomaniacs. The film is an old-fashioned slow-burner, based on a small environmental catastrophe in one of the most boring bits of New England that God created. I've been there. The town of Woburn is stretched like a road-kill beside an anonymous motorway.

Yet *A Civil Action* is the most compelling legal drama I've seen in years. Part of the fascination is undoubtedly the fact that it is based on a real case, expertly documented in Jonathan Harr's bestselling novel. But the reason the film grips is an alarming national conviction that courts in America have more in common with casinos than democracy.

Travolta's plump ambulance-chaser, Jan Schlichtmann, never lets go of the analogy. As the case unfolds his voiceover unleashes statistics, calls the odds and places the bets. The case itself is utterly self-evident. Local chemical companies have been illegally dumping toxic waste into the ground for years. The chemicals have dribbled into the water system, and eight families have suffered the deaths of children, mental deficiencies, and leukaemia.

The task of proving anything is an entirely different matter. Stuffed into an expensive Italian suit, Travolta's slick Boston yuppie initially resists the action. But compelled by his crusading sense of vanity, he breaks all his own rules and finds himself squaring up to companies with no scruples and very deep pockets. Worse, he finds himself squaring up to Robert Duvall's wily defence lawyer in a titanic battle of nerve. The director Steven Zaillian casts brilliantly.

There is the usual spread of villains and victims, the slow drip of evidence being collected, and the sight of witnesses (Stephen Fry and Tony Shalhoub) being squeezed like sponges. But it's the exhilarating clash of egos and styles that proves so compelling. Travolta milks the jury, while Duvall's shrivelled old-timer coolly beguiles the judge. Duvall is terrifying because he never seems to be there, even when he is there. Apart from the sly self-deprecating chuckle, he does little but Selotape his battered briefcase, play with pens, eat his packed lunches, and listen to the Red Sox game on his transistor.

Shot with claustrophobic formality in oak-stained courtrooms, stuffy Boston clubs and swanky hotel suites, the film cleverly pricks away at more deep-seated insecurities. Travolta, obsessed as he is by exposing the truth, is derailed by pride. Haemorrhaging money he hasn't got, Travolta's practice plunges towards bankruptcy. One of the great impon-

A Civil Action
Empire
15, 115 mins
Meaty courtroom drama
with John Travolta and
Robert Duvall

Bedrooms and Hallways
UCI Whiteleys
15, 96 mins
Playful comedy about male bonding

The Faculty
Warner Village West
End
15, 104 mins
Fishty sci-fi chiller with high comedy quota

No
Barbican
15, 85 mins
A slick, seductive conjuring trick from Robert Lepage

The Red Violin
Odeon Haymarket
15, 130 mins
Ripping yarn with spooky violin

Slam
Metro
15, 99 mins
The gritty, enthralling world of a rap poet

Orgazmo
Plaza
18, 90 mins
Slapstick on a porno set

the men, and the plot goes haywire. The delectable Jennifer Ehle comes knocking at McKidd's door, and discovers that her first boyfriend is having an affair with her recent ex. Troche pushes the film towards outright farce with her kitsch cutaways to McKidd's pina colada fantasies. But it is splendidly salvaged by memorable cameos from a raft of bitchy British thespes, notably Tom Hollander, Hugo Weaving and Harriet Walter.

Personality disorder of the week goes to *The Faculty* in charge of a decrepit high school in Ohio. The football coach is psychotic, the history teacher is a chronic alcoholic, and the English tutor is in serious need of therapy. So far, so perfectly normal, until the faculty is invaded by alien squid foetuses from outer space. The red parasites crawl into ears, wriggle around under the skin and, in moments of high excitement, explode out of faces like giant catfish.

Amazingly, none of the pupils seems to care apart from the school geek, Elijah Wood. Kevin Williamson, the scribe behind the Post-Modern teen horror *Scream*, provides another trainspotter's medley of horror clichés. The surprise is that it's actually quite entertaining in the "who's next for calamari?" vein, as the director, Robert Rodriguez, flogs the creeping paranoia with scat-clutching wit.

Robert Lepage's third feature, *No*, is a self-contained chunk of his dazzling seven-hour stage epic. *Seven Streams of the River Ouz*. A gawky actress (Anne-Marie Cadieux) plays a slutish maid of his practice — as the bailiffs move into their offices. A portrait of an heroic idealist, or the reckless stand of an egomaniac? Draw your own conclusions.

Rose Troche's romantic, London-based comedy, *Bedrooms and Hallways*, slots neatly between David Kane's *This Year's Love* and the forthcoming *Notting Hill*. Simon Callow has never been so funny, or so spectacularly miscast as a heterosexual New Age svenghai who runs a male support group. Every week the club meet in their Tibetan room to contemplate the spiritual business of being male. "Will you pass Terry the harpoon please?" he croons as another acolyte struggles with his inner demons. The macho dynamics are hilariously short-circuited when Kevin McKidd's grumpy Leo is physically attracted to James Purefoy's hunky Brendan. Chaos, jealousy and homophobia divide

derables is why his hapless partners (led by the excellent William H. Macy) allow themselves to be sucked into the abyss. Travolta is still swatting away multimillion-dollar settlements — the Holy Grails of his practice — as the bailiffs move into their offices. A portrait of an heroic idealist, or the reckless stand of an egomaniac? Draw your own conclusions.

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Even garbage collectors might choke on Trey Parker's spoof of the LA porn industry, *Orgazmo*. A Bible-thumping

Mormon (Parker) ends up in a porn flick, dressed as a caped crusader. His diminutive sidekick, Ben Chapleski, sports a giant phallus on top of his head and launches himself at naked women. Parker's insufferable fiancée nearly expires with shock. To say I nearly expired with excitement would be deeply misleading.

counterpointed by shifts in musical styles (John Corigliano). But there isn't a single frame that aspires to anything more substantial than shameless myth-making. Jason Flemyng's Byronic genius cradles it between his naked thighs. Greta Scacchi's lamentable Pre-Raphaelite tears her clothes off at the mere sound of

scat-clutching wit.

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LISTINGS

Rachel Weisz on stage

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargreaves

LONDON

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER: Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in Tennessee Williams' shocker. National Theatre, Queen's Hall, Comedy 0171-389 1731. Preview from tonight, 8pm.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: The Royal Philharmonic and Brahms continues with Daniel Gadd conducting Berg's *Violin Concerto* (solist Max Kapell) and two works by Brahms: *Variations* on a theme by Haydn and *Double Bass Symphony*. Bridgewater Hall (0171-632 6081). Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

BLOOD KNOT: Barry Humphries and Gordon Cumming star in Abbot Fugard's updated version of his celebrated black and white brothers play. Wilton's Music Hall (Town Hall), 7.15pm and 9.15pm. The festival continues until Sunday with contributions from Hungry Lutonian, Chick Corea and the London Sinfonietta. Festival Box Office (01242 223173).

GLASSWORKS: The Royal Scottish National Orchestra concludes its Discovery Series with an evening of British music. Purcell opens the programme followed by the Scottish Ensemble, Ensemble Tactus, the Royal Liverpool's Cello Concerto, performed by Raphael Wallfisch, and



Chet Baker opens the Cheltenham Jazz Festival

British's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. Jennifer Loughran conducts. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 2811). Tonight, 7pm. £5.

MANCHESTER: Sophie Rebecca Evans joins the Hallé Orchestra as soloist in Britten's *Little Nightingale*. Two symphonies follow: Mozart's *Urlicht* and Dvořák's *The New World*. Conductor is James Brown. Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

OXFORD: After an extended London run *Fascinating Alice*'s latest show, *Barefoot Chic*, arrives in town for three nights of topical satire and song. Phoenix (01865 760000). Preview and Sat, 7.30pm. Tomorrow, 8pm. £5.

GLASGOW: The Royal Scottish National Orchestra concludes its Discovery Series with an evening of British music. Purcell opens the programme followed by the Scottish Ensemble, Ensemble Tactus, the Royal Liverpool's Cello Concerto, performed by Raphael Wallfisch, and

ELSEWHERE

CHELTENHAM: Veteran rocker-cum-jazzman, Van Morrison, looks off the International Jazz Festival here. The gravel-voiced singer is joined on stage by a live band and backed by accompanist Steve Erwin (Town Hall), 7.15pm and 9.15pm. The festival continues until Sunday with contributions from Hungry Lutonian, Chick Corea and the London Sinfonietta. Festival Box Office (01242 223173).

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NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jessica Knaggs' choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ■ Some seats available ■ Seats at all prices

■ MAMMA MIA! Musical based on the songs of Abba: Stobart McCarthy and Lee Stokoe play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs. Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

■ ROBERT ZUCCO: James Macmillan's acclaimed Swindon production of Bernard-Marie Koltès's mesmerising drama, *Zuba! Viva!* plays the killer hero. £10-£38. 55971.

■ THE GIN GAMER: Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a game of cards and card-playing styles echo their sly lives. Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prize winner. Savoy (0171-838 8888). £5.

■ THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE: Richard Dreyfuss and Annette Bening star in their British debut in Neil Simon's play about big city angst. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800). £5.

■ HAMLET: Paul Rhys plays the prince in Laurence Olivier's new production. With Donald Sutherland. Young Vic (0171-928 6963). £5.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of genius and dry humour illuminate Zeffirelli's sentimental tribute to the 1930s. The film, which was banned in Italy, was directed by the man who raised the director in Florence before Mussolini jailed them. With Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jake Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler is closer to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid than The Rake's. It's a madcap, wild ride. Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): Ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. His 1950s values make him look mystical, mad, and blindingly naive in the 1990s. Bill Nighy directs.

BEYOND SILENCE (12): Plucky and touching, it's a touching soap in which a young girl tries to get a life beyond her profoundly deaf parents. Caroline Link directs.

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): Charles Laughton's old and only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Mitchum is crooked preacher

is unforgettable. An absolute classic 1965 film.

AUGUST IN THE WATER (1A): You could hang Soppo's surreal Japanese science fiction in the Taro. It's a beautiful, dreamlike look at a city cursed by drought and a mysterious current that turns the gues to stone.

CURRENT

GODS AND MONSTERS (15): Ian McKellen excels as a legendary horror movie director who becomes a gay pioneer. (Peter Finch) for a role darker than that of over-muscled escort. Bill Nighy directs.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18): Edward Norton is irresistibly compelling as a white supremacist skinned in Tony Kaye's leathery, controversial but determined attempt to get under the skin of an American tragedy.

PAYBACK (18): Mel Gibson bleeds his way through a chunky, mean-spirited revenge drama with Greg Henry, William Devane, James Coburn and Kris Kristofferson.

THE FLIGRANTS (M-18): Parties, big cartoon adventure in which living bodies bond in a spruce forest. Why enough for adults an unavoidable necessity for three to eight-year-olds.

ARTS**Tonic for troupers**

Imagine you decided to slot *Ring-a-Roses*, *The Grand Old Duke of York*, *Hushaby Baby* and a score of other nursery rhymes into a musical play about the intricacies of bee-keeping or the perils of hand-sliding. You would have set yourself a challenge only a little more taxing than that facing the creators of *Mamma Mia!*, who are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Abba's Eurovision Song Contest triumph by cramming 20 or so of their numbers into an endearingly preposterous tale about a bride's search for her dad.

How does this exercise in creative shoehorning work? Well, take the celebrated title song, which most people would assume to be all about a child's ambivalent feelings for a mad-denning mum. Here it is the mother who is singing that she's broken-hearted, blue since the day we parted. Here, the joint objects of her love are the three men she loved and lost 21 years ago. And, believe it or not, it is they who chorus all that guff about taking one look, hearing a bell ring and forgetting everything.

Fortunately, our librettist is Catherine Johnson, who has a nice, naff story to tell and her tongue stuck so far into her cheek it numbles out of an ear and down to a knee. How else would she get away with setting her story in and around a white-plastered tavern on an Aegean island where there are no suntans, no music that doesn't hit from Sweden, and, apart from a priest dressed as an Anglican vicar, nary a Greek to be seen? How else would she get away with that story?

Lisa Stokke's sweet, young Sophie has beautifully twiggled that her long-missing, long-unmentioned Pa is either a banker, an architect or a travel-writer. So she secretly invites all three to her wedding in hopes of discovering which of them should be giving her away. This comes as rather a

shock to her mother Donna. Take an educated guess at the reaction of Siobhan McCarthy, the splendidly feisty, full-voiced actress who plays the part. That's right, it is to launch into the song *SOS* with the most appealing of the candidates, Hilton Macrae's architect: I wish I understood, our love used to be so good, etc, etc.

As many another number re-emphasises, lyrics were never Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus's strength.

It was the pounding rhythms that mattered, along with melodies that remained relentlessly upbeat whatever the emotional provocation. Time after time on the first night the familiar sounds were greeted with applause and knowing laughter. After all, to follow Donna's collapse in dismay with *Chiquitita* — "tell me the truth, I'm a shoulder you can cry on, your best friend and the one you must rely on" — is quite a jolly in-joke, especially when the song is robustly rendered by Louise Plowright and Jenny Galloway.

Yes, and before a setting moon twice as big as Naxos has brought

Phyllida Lloyd's bouncy production to a suitably improbable close, we somehow contrive to hear *Money, Money, Money*, *Super Trouper* and lots more. For that, Abba fans will doubtless forgive anything. And with so much fun in the theatrical air, the rest of us might as well indulge them.

THEATRE**Princess Edward**

GOOD: C.P. Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance directs. Donmar (0171-552 5000).

THE COLONEL'S BIRD: Bulgarian author Ivan Krastev's political comedy about a secret agent who has taken over by his kinetics. Rupert Gould directs. Gate (0171-552 0709).

SACRED HEART: In Mick McHugh's new play second-generation Irish kids from NIMBY meet again after years estranged. Directed by Michael Antunes. (0171-552 5000).

GROSS INDECENCY: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde, with William Heyen and Clive Francis as counsel for and against, in Moises Kaufman's play about the killer hero. £10-£38. 55971.

THE GIN GAMER: Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a game of cards and card-playing styles echo their sly lives. Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prize winner. Savoy (0171-838 8888). £5.

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Dancing queens: (from left) Louise Plowright (Tanya), Siobhan McCarthy (Donna), Jenny Galloway (Rosie)

Putting up his Dukes**JAZZ****Ellington's Rhythm**

the Cotton Club or the barn-storming ambience of the Newport Festival shows — the choice of material veers a long way from the standard greatest-hits package.

True, we did get *Take the A-Train*, yet even here Long looked to an off-source, resurrecting the pungent arrangement that Billy Strayhorn scribbled out at short notice for the *Songbook* album with Ella Fitzgerald. Patricia Revelli handled the vocals with cool flair; Bruce Adams added a playful muted trumpet solo.

Revelli was back on hand for *Rose of the Rio Grande*, an ancient Harry Warren hit which found its way on to the programme for Ellington's historic 1943 Hall concert of 1943, but the jaunty melody sat uneasily alongside Ellington's own work.

Rockin' in Rhythm had set the evening off on a familiar note, but the programme continually sprang surprises. Ellington's very first tune, *Soda Fountain Rag*, was recreated by Don Innes at the piano, and the orchestra plunged convincingly into the funeral harmonies of Mercer Ellington's *Blue Sarge*.

The Blanton-Webster band of the early 1940s served as a touchstone, but the time-traveling delved further back on *Rent Party Blues*, initially prodded by Clark Tracey's quaint two-beat pulse on the cymbal.

Trombones and reeds did not always mesh, and the recently rediscovered closing number by Strayhorn, *Penthouse*, outstayed its welcome.

But the spirit of the music came through loud and clear.

CLIVE DAVIS

They don't come more opposite than poetry and dance. The one speaks directly from the mind, the other directly from the body. So what happens when you put them together, as this year's *Spring Loaded* festival at London's Place Theatre has done? Not a lot, if it happens, because this innovative event, which calls itself *Elbow Room*, has thrown away the opportunity to make something of itself.

The poetry comes courtesy of John Hegley, a very funny man, and even funnier on stage than on the page. His poems, many about growing up in Luton, are packaged as comedy but carry a bite. Beneath the bass line of his pleasantly silly rhymes lurks a clutch of astringent arrows. Hegley fires them with maximum accuracy and timing; just when you think a poem is nonsense he turns it around in a flash.

His verse is the most commendable offering in a two-hour revue that sees the comedian acting as both compere and star attraction. The dance is represented by several short duets of little import, along with two longer chunks of

through a mildly entertaining spoof in which Cinders gets less than she bargained for. The jokes are thin; the choreography even thinner.

Wendy Houston gets the second half's centrepiece. Her *Happy Hour* is "15 minutes of some bits of a longer piece" and we can only be grateful that we were not subjected to the fully monty. In this display of theatrical variety, Houston regales us with a verbal monologue that sees her adopt several tedious personae: from a wheeling bartender to a self-recriminating drunk. A perfunctory arsenal of agitated gestures accompanies this feeble and boring enterprise.

If Hegley's own meagre contribution to the proceedings is any indication, he views dance merely as physical punctuation to his words. He moves with an intriguing flexibility and intelligence, but shows no understanding of what it is that dance can say and words cannot. And if the bard of Luton is so interested in dance why has he surrounded himself with such second-rate acts?

DEBRA CRAINE

DANCE**Ellbow Room**

dance theatre. In the best tradition of variety entertainment, a little music is thrown in, along with a couple of cabbages — chucked at the audience at the show's start just to ensure we are awake when the lurid red house lights dim. Potatoes come later, part of Hegley's reprise of last year's *Dances With Potatoes*.

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ROCK 'N' ROLL**Elbow Room**

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ROCK 'N' ROLL**Elbow Room**

through a mildly entertaining

MUSIC

Neville Marriner at 75

مكتبة الأصل

ARTS

Forty years in fields of glory

MUSIC: Richard Morrison meets Sir Neville Marriner, as he prepares to conduct his 75th birthday gala

If ever a pocket cartoon summed up a man's achievement, it was the celebrated one carried in *The New Yorker* a few years ago. It showed a parrot listening to the radio. Out of the airwaves came the announcer's voice: "That was the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields..." Quick as a flash, the parrot chirped in: "... conducted by Sir Neville Marriner."

There was indeed a time when this majestic combo seemed intent on recording everything and touring everywhere. Ask Marriner how many pieces he has recorded and he answers, with delightful nonchalance: "Oh, someone totted them up once, but they lost count after 1,600."

Today, with the record industry much shrunken, the Academy's dominance is less marked — but it remains the most famous chamber orchestra in the world. Time, then, to celebrate Marriner's achievement, for next week a Festival Hall concert marks not only his own 75th birthday but also the 40th anniversary of the auspicious moment when he founded the ensemble that transformed orchestral standards for ever.

The London music scene of the 1950s was very different from today's less disciplined, more ebullient. For a while Marriner, an LSO violinist, larked about with the best of them. "I used to travel to concerts with a violinist called Peter Gibbs, who had been an RAF pilot and owned a Tiger Moth," he recalls. "One day we took a lot of flour-bags up with us and bombed the LSO bus on the road from Brussels to Ostend. I don't think I could please players like that in my orchestra now."

"But something in Marriner shelled against this easy-going scene. The concept of the academy began innocently enough. "We didn't take it seriously at first," he says. "We used to gather in my flat to play chamber music for fun. Then our keyboard player, Jack Churchill, who was musical director at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, suggested that we give a concert there after a service. He said stragglers were always hanging around, hoping to keep warm. 'Well, we discussed names in the pub. We weren't big enough to be called an orchestra, and we hated the word 'ensemble'. Then the vicar said: 'You know that around the Strand in the 18th century there were clubs called academies, for people with similar interests in the arts or sciences? We said: 'Fine, we'll call ourselves the Academy.' Then he said: 'Don't forget the church...' So we came up with this ridiculous name."



SUZIE MAEDER

Sir Neville Marriner: "The most important test of a future Academy player is to take them on tour and see if you can bear to spend time with them"

Ridiculous or not, it was instantly successful. The boss of the newly founded L'Orfeo Lyre record label came to that first concert and signed up the Academy on the spot. "We immediately recorded all those Italian ice-cream merchants: Manfredini, Corelli, and so on," Marriner recalls. "So in one leap we had gone from being a friendly 'society' into something almost professional."

The rest is history. The Sixties were the boom years of stereo, and Marriner — who quickly turned from fiddle to baton — fashioned the perfect conducting orchestra: clean in texture, clinical in technique, brilliant in timbre. "The work

flooded in. I remember recording all the Mozart horn concertos twice in the same week for different labels."

Marriner complains of being "typecast" by those early years. "Because I cultivated a lively style, people somehow thought I was too superficial for the po-faced stuff like Mahler." In fact, as his career blossomed conducting European and American symphony orchestras, he broadened his repertoire hugely. Does he ever turn on the radio and not recognise a recording as his?

Like Solti

I think I will keep on going until I'm stopped

"Sometimes you turn on the radio and hope it isn't yours. That happens to many musicians. I remember Alfred Brendel recalling how he was listening to a piano recital on the radio, and making a mental note of everything he didn't like about it, when the announcer said that the pianist was Alfred Brendel."

Marriner's way of selecting players for the Academy has remained constant. First comes an audition. "You can tell within five minutes what they can do." Then they are put into the Academy for a concert or two to see how quickly they absorb its immaculate ensemble style.

"But the most important test," Marriner says, "is to take them on tour and see if you can bear to spend time with them. If they are miserable devils, they don't get invited back."

About two applicants in a hundred get through, and the turnover is high. "The average age of players in this 40-year-old orchestra is about 30," Marriner notes. "We find that the women have babies and then can't tour, while the men sooner or later need more security than we can offer, and join one of the salaried orchestras."

Marriner takes little trouble

to conceal his disdain for the latter. "I get so mad with contract orchestras. Invariably, two people are missing from any rehearsal because they are at the dentist — usually a viola and double bass." The most pampered orchestras, he says, are in America. "The union rules there are so restrictive that orchestras virtually price themselves out of recordings."

But what of his work with orchestras round the world? "Like Solti, I will probably go on until I'm stopped," he says wryly. "The awful thing about a conductor becoming geriatric is that you seem to become more desirable, not less. I just wish all these offers had come in when I was 30."

I'm filling in the diary for 2004. my wife has already booked weeks that are important for work in the garden." Times readers can purchase two tickets for the price of one on the top three ticket prices (£30, £24, £18) for Sir Neville Marriner's 75th Birthday Gala Concert, performed by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields at the Festival Hall next Wednesday at 7.30pm. To book, call Times Live on 0870-842 2212. Lines are open 24 hours a day. The programme is Mozart, Britten and Mendelssohn

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MORE live recordings from the Mozartsaal in Vienna's Konzerthaus; and, as ever, there is little doubt about who is playing. From the finely drawn, ardent opening string notes of Brahms's Clarinet Quintet, before the soloist rises, lark-like, this is the distinctive sound of the Alban Berg Quartet. And, with Sabine Meyer's feisty clarinet, this is about the most high-fibre performance in the catalogue.

Decca has taken the plunge and cast the piece most generously. Natalie Dessay is in top form as Aspasia, surrounded by lies, treachery and even a possible marriage with King Mitrade himself. To her go the big emotional outbursts and Dessay dispatches them with almost greedy brilliance.

Decca cast a mezzo (Cecilia Bartoli) and a counter-tenor (Brian Asawa) as the warring brothers. Bartoli is the great stylist, but Asawa is by no means outclassed. Sabatini makes much of Mitrade's death scene and Rousset is a highly sympathetic conductor.

JOHN HIGGINS

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THESE recordings of the Beethoven piano concertos are sophisticated, discerning and tasteful, with nothing exaggerated, so it all sounds exactly as it should. But listen more closely and you realise the subtleties of inflection in No 3, the barely perceptible tempo modifications in No 4 and the unforced authority of the *Emperor*.

Add to that the sparkling wit of the rondo finales to Nos 1 and 2 and Alfred Brendel's superbly meticulous pianism and you have a set to treasure.

Such joy radiates from the partnership with Simon Rattle and the Vienna Philharmonic, and such seamless give and take from two distinctive but eminently compatible musical personalities, that it is easy to see why Brendel should be content for this fourth go round to be, as he says it will, his last.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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Semele seduced the audience with Semeli's irresistibly sexy, egotistical arias'
— Wall Street Journal

Bach to nature

CONCERT
DAME SUTZMANN
Barbara

without the ballast of its continuo bass.

Susan Sheppard's eloquent cello came into its own, though, underlining Stutzmann's ardent goodnight to the world in the cantata *Ich habe genug*. Stutzmann's contralto traced and paraphrased the valedictory Song of Simeon with rare sensitivity, graphically using vowels to lift the melodic line, and consonants to propel it. It was a moving tribute to the late Francis Bates, double-bass player with the OAE, who was commemorated in this concert.

Robson took up a ready oboe da caccia here, after what seemed an exhausting performance with Mackintosh of Bach's Concerto in C minor for Oboe and Violin. This was a brisk, no-nonsense performance of a work which deserves a little more space. But the Corelli Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 1, which began the evening, lived dangerously without compromising the music, and revealed the OAE's strings at their best.

HILARY FINCH

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THIS SUNDAY, WE OUT THE INCREDIBLY RICH.

BRITAIN'S RICHEST 1,000

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

BOOKS

American in Paris, and London, and . . .

Since the beginning of time there have been about half a billion Americans. On the date of Independence in 1776, there were roughly two million people living in the East Coast colonies and the vast uncharted territories beyond. Today there are approximately 270 million, and we will know the exact number shortly after the official census that takes place next year (a decennial nose count is mandated by the US Constitution).

From this historical pool of humanity, the creators of the *American National Biography* have selected 17,500 individuals. Each subject receives a write-up of between 750 and 7,500 words, and the profiles are spread over 24 hefty volumes. The principal criterion – a helpful one – is that the candidate must have expired before 1996. Citizenship is not a prerequisite, but "significant influence" is expected, so some names appear which are customarily associated with other lands. W. H. Auden has an entry (though he did become an American citizen after the war) and so does Peter Sellers, who never thought of changing citizenship. For a nation which is made up of immigrants, transients and a free-flowing population, citizenship would be an unworkable restriction.

Not since putting a man on the Moon has an American organisation undertaken such an ambitious logistical project.

RAYMOND SEITZ
AMERICAN NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY
(24 vols.)
Eds. John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes
OUP, £1500
ISBN 0 19 520635 5

copy editors and fact-checkers at the Oxford University Press in North Carolina. Money came from the ACLS's own fund-raising as well as grants from the Mellon and Rockefeller Foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The new *Biography*, according to Stanley Katz, the President Emeritus of the ACLS, is the product of the "often invoked, but rarely manifested, scholarly community".

In an era of sometimes capacious political correctness, the editors have made a judicious effort to redress the balance between white males, who dominated the earlier biographical dictionary, and women and minorities, who were frequently neglected. Sacagawea, who barely rated a mention before, is here given full treatment, not only for her exploits as guide on the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Northwest Territories, but for her own life as well (we learn, for example, that she married a Shoshone with the unfortunate name of "Jerk Meat").

Oscar Charleston, the outstanding black baseball star of the pre-war Negro League, is given long overdue recognition. So, too, Martha Ballard whose ordinary life as an 18th-century midwife would have faded into oblivion had it not been for her valuable diaries. More questionable, perhaps, is the inclusion of Benjamin Franklin's common law wife, Deborah, except that she

signed her letters to her travelling husband with the words, "Your a feck shonet wife".

These volumes are an absorbing panorama of the long, colourful American parade. As expensive reference works they naturally belong in schools and libraries, and the succinct bibliographies that appear at the end of each entry are a scholar's feast. In a way, this is a pity, because the essays are well written and often entertaining, and the *Biography* would be perfectly suitable for the bedside table were it not for the weight. The pages are strewn with little nuggets.

Take, for example, the profile of George Jessel (1898-1981), the vaudeville comic who turned down the lead role in *The Jazz Singer*. In the same year as the movie appeared (1927), Jessel made a different contribution to life and art. Having mixed a mid-morning tomato drink for himself in a Palm Beach bar, he offered a taste to a Philadelphia socialite named Mary Brown Warburton, who "promptly spilled it down the front of her white gown, thereby christening herself and the drink Bloody Mary".

American National Biography represents such a colossal effort that it probably never would have taken flight without the psychological imperative of the looming millennium. But its publication now is indeed something to celebrate.



Manhattan transfer: W. H. Auden emigrated to New York in 1939 and became an American citizen in 1946

A light shone on family history

Andrew O'Hagan on the family that built Scotland's lighthouses

Victorian fathers cast long shadows. There was something eminently paternal in the spirit of the age. Edmund Gosse pinned it down in *Father and Son*: the lofty father, caustic, remote and busy with the world's small detail, and the solitary son, piddling away the hours in the midst of dreams and fevers.

This was also true for Gosse's acquaintance Robert Louis Stevenson, a brilliant writer and a creature of strong fathers, who – to the morning of his death – allowed those fathers to blink in and out of his life. "The atmosphere of his father's sterling industry," wrote Stevenson in his unfinished novel *Weir of Hermiston*, "was the best of Archie's education. Assuredly it did not attract him; assuredly it rather rebutted and depressed. Yet it was still present, unobserved like the ticking of a clock, an arid ideal, a tasteless stimulant in the boy's life."

However arid the ideals of Stevenson's father – and there was always something of the family in his dry cough – the truth must be that their interests were not remote from his character as a writer. Their hard work as engineers, their mastery of weather, mathematics and the high sea, find a strange relative in the sentiments of Robert Louis Stevenson, their landlubbing son and grandson and nephew and cousin. In this book, Bella Bathurst has found a way to al-

lowation fairs; where the heart gives out.

Louis' father, Thomas – Alan's brother – was never workshy either. Yet he, too, had a secret hankering to be a writer. He crumbled in the face of his father's objections – as his own son would not – and lost himself in note-taking on the subject of waves and "heathen writers". There is an anxiety of influence detectable in each of these men: each if them wanted to live up to his father and yet find a way to live as himself. Robert Louis Stevenson broke excruciating waves of disappointment over his father's head: he turned his back on lighthouses, but in all the squall, he seems to have found his writer's voice.

Bella Bathurst has built a lamp herself: it illuminates the work of a literary family business, a habit of mind and a Scottish period. She gives us a sense of the lives of the keepers and provides a eulogy for a kind of life now going or gone: all the lighthouses, including the ones built by the Stevensons are now unnnamed.

Bella Bathurst is what people used to call the genuine article: from the summit of this terrific first book she looks to become one of the best biographers of her generation. In the meantime, you might do yourself a favour and fold *The Lighthouse Stevensons* into your knapsack.

Hit by a bolt from the blue

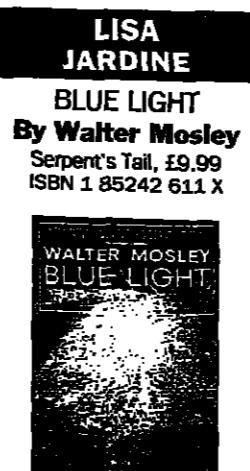
A strange force is randomly reconstructing the minds of ordinary folk in Sixties San Francisco, in the heyday of the hippy drug-culture. When a flash of cosmic blue light strikes men and women (and even roaming animals) it quickens their DNA, sharpening their faculties and magnifying their physical powers so that they become a superhuman race of the future – "the Blues". Driven into violent action by their heightened awareness, each Blue becomes bent obsessively on realising his or her deepest yearnings: great sex, harmony with nature, abiding compassionate love, and (occasionally) brutal psychotic violence.

One of their number takes on the role of leader, galvanising the Blues into a cult, inventing rituals of mixing and drinking each other's blood to enhance their mystical powers. The woman he was coupled with at the moment the blue light struck becomes the

gritty, real-life dialogue and crafts his plots around closely observed detail of life as a social outsider.

Blue Light is a new venture into "science fiction". In fact, "science" has very little to do with this fiction, unless we mean the chemistry which produces the substances beloved of drug-users. In *Blue Light*, Mosley details metidiously the grainy, disorientated insanity of being high on something-or-other in San Francisco during the Vietnam War years. He describes with mesmerising clarity the hauntings of twilight world of nightmares and euphoria inhabited by losers and drifters who move from one fix to another. The blood-exchanges, love-affairs and brutalities merge into a single inchoate dreamworld.

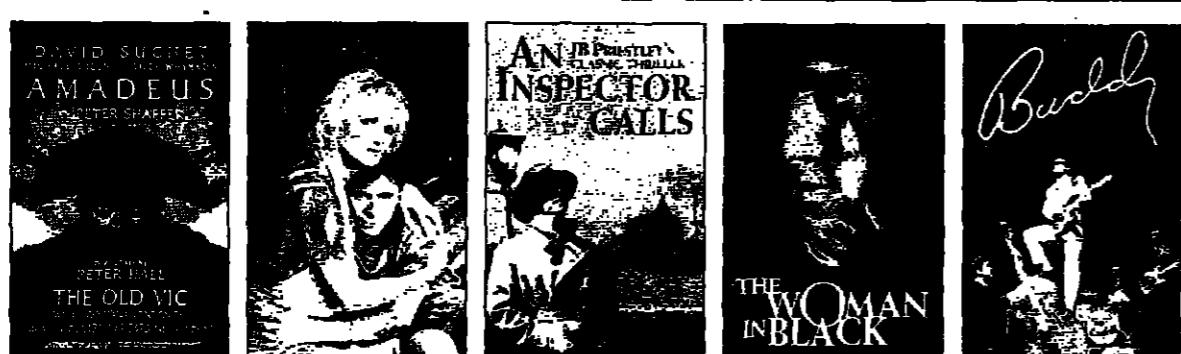
We cannot even be sure that the entire "History" is not a product of Chance's deluded mind, since at the end of the book he is confined to a mental hospital, registered as a paranoid schizophrenic.



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THE TIMES

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Blood Brothers, Phoenix Theatre, WC2. Winner of the Olivier Best Musical production award. Offer valid from April 19-June 30 Monday-Friday evenings at 7.45pm and matinees on Thursday at 3pm and Saturday 4pm. Tickets normally £39.50 each.

An Inspector Calls, Garrick Theatre, WC2. Winner of 19 awards, the National Theatre production of J. B. Priestley's thriller stars William Gaunt. Offer valid Monday-Thursday evenings at 7.45pm from April 19-May 15. Tickets normally £29.50 each.

The Woman in Black, Fortune Theatre, WC2. Susan Hill's frightening ghost story, now in its tenth year. Offer valid Monday-Thurs evenings at 8pm from May 1-June 30. Tickets normally £23.50 each.

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CHANGING TIMES

BOOKS

مكتبة مصر

Washed ashore in a bomb-damaged land

The scarring runs deeper than the flattened landscape
in Philip Casey's novel, set in postwar London

The water star is a reflection; imperfect, but beautiful in itself. Its darkish image shivers in a breath of wind, or is obscured by the observer's shadow in the moon, but that mutability, that elusiveness, is part of its arresting mystery. Lean down too close to the pool and it will appear to vanish altogether.

Philip Casey's second novel, *The Water Star*, works in the same way. Casey is a poet and a playwright; he has a poet's delicate ear and a playwright's eye for creation. The tale that unfolds in his thick, satisfying volume is not particularly complex — any more than the circumstances of any of our lives are complex, which is to say, infinitely and infinitesimally. London, 1950: the city is a bomb at a building site, and there is plenty of work for Brendan and Hugh Kinsella, natives of Co. Meath. Father and son, Brendan's wife and Hugh's mother Mire are dead, buried near the blue

Irish mountain that haunts them in their grey London days. Croghan Kinsella.

The city separates them. Each longs for home, for the past, finds himself strange even when not among strangers. The London of Hugh's imagination is nowhere to be found: "When he was a child, he had always thought that London had no hills. He remembered this as he walked up the incline of Tollington Park, past the large Protestant church and into Everleigh Street, where the Irish faithful were congregating. Hugh was perversely proud that his church had a corrugated iron roof, in contrast to its grand Protestant neighbour. No matter that Catholic churches in Ireland were of good stone and slate, the poverty of this one made him feel a cut above the Prods, morally speaking."

But when Hugh's longing manifests itself in a vision of his dead mother, Brendan hides his own sense of loss in a fear of his son's

madness, and Hugh goes his own way.

He finds a home with Elizabeth Frampton, who takes him into her house and her bed. She has another lodger, Karl, a German, whose family was killed in Hamburg in the war. He manages his bereavement by carving their effigies as he sits in the garden — and by loving Elizabeth. When she takes to Hugh he is faced with another loss. Brendan, meanwhile, finds comfort after his son's disappearance with Sarah, an Irish woman sent away from home when she became pregnant with her daughter Deirdre. Through the interweaving and the overlapping of these relationships, Casey examines how human nature is shaped by sorrow: how people will find a way — sometimes, it seems, despite themselves — to take comfort from others, to make homes where they can, even among the ruins.

Casey's technique, too, is one of interweaving and overlapping. He

is as it is meant to and unfolding the story like a fan.

Karl works as a labourer, too: Elizabeth trusts he will find work for Hugh. As Hugh sees it: "Elizabeth glanced at him across the table. He had been watching a stray hair which had wandered from her well-brushed head. As their eyes met, she looked back again to Karl. 'Can you fix a start for Hugh on Monday?' Karl sized him up. 'If he's willing to work hard.' Brickett's mate, Hugh."

And then, as Karl perceives it: "Can you fix a start for Hugh on Monday?" She asked quietly. Of course. Elizabeth had but to ask, no matter what complication or indeftness to those he despised that it might entail. It was against his interest, he knew simply by the way she spoke of the young man: but Elizabeth had made a request. He pretended to consider. "If he's willing to work hard. Brickett's mate, Hugh."

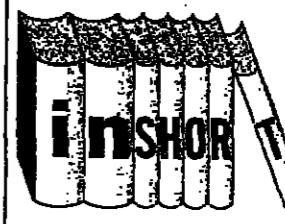
This style, formal yet flexible, opens the novel out, and the different perspectives made these hardscrabble lives — death is a frequent visitor to this household and comfort too easily found in a bottle of wine or whiskey — vivid.

Casey's tale comes to the reader bearing praise from Sebastian Barry, and, like the author of *The Steward of Christendom* and *The Whereabouts of Eneas McVatty*, he has an unsentimental but affectionate view of Ireland and the Irish.

His language is more austere than Barry's; his characters aren't given to specifying and a large part of his skill is in the way he digs through their inarticacy to find the real emotion beneath.

The Water Star is a graceful, gentle novel that does not shy from the truth. Is its metaphor of lives rebuilt from rubble — whether the detritus of the past or the structures shattered by the Blitz — too pat? Perhaps, sometimes. But reading along one finds oneself thinking, yes, but that's just how things are. That seems a small thing, but it is a fine compliment to a work of fiction.

THE WATER STAR
By Philip Casey
Picador, £14.99
ISBN 0 330 371 908



Blame it on the theorist

SEVERAL DECEPTIONS

By Jane Stevenson
Jonathan Cape, £14.99

ISBN 0 224 05939 4

JANE STEVENSON'S first collection of fiction consists of four novellas with the common theme of deception. A professor undercut by his own intellect amusingly blames all the problems in his life on the semiotics nut Umberto Eco. In another story, an international lawyer plays at terrorism. But the most finely tuned quartet tells the story of Judy O'Grady, an Irish woman who changes her name to Ananda and becomes a novice in a Tibetan nunnery. Things heat up during a spell in Simla, the former British hill-station in northern India, when the unlikely heroine unexpectedly warms to the dying embers of colonialism. Stevenson's careful plotting and attention to detail prove she is a new voice worth listening to.

Into the fire

THE FAREWELL ANGEL

By Carmen Martin Gaite

Harrvill, £9.99

ISBN 1 86046 358 4

LEONARDO is released from his Madrid prison cell on the same day as he learns his parents have died in a car crash. He returns home with a full wallet, but his heart is heavier still. First he reminiscences in a sepia-tinted haze, churning up memories which eventually lead him to a white house on the edge of a cliff where his grandmother raised him. But it is not until he meets the building's new owner that he is fully redeemed. This is essentially a novel about storytelling. Carmen Martin Gaite, a bestselling author in her native Spain, weaves traditional childhood tales into her own complex and peculiar one.

Alter ego

ALLAN STEIN: A Novel

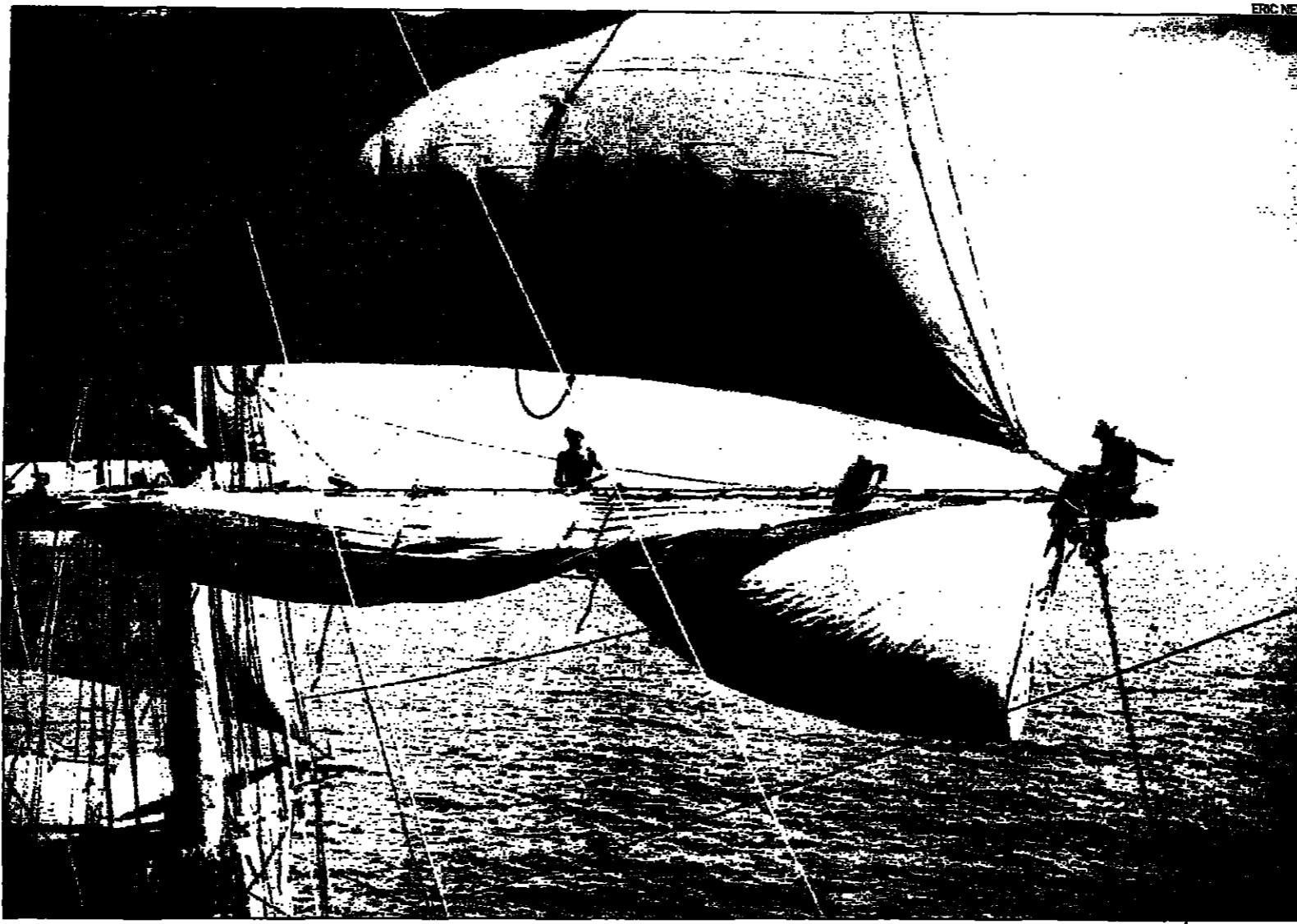
By Matthew Stadler

Fourth Estate, £10

ISBN 1 84115 107 6

A SUCKER for small boys, Matthew swaps Searle for Paris after an affair with a 15-year-old pupil, switches from fantasy to reality. For the sheer hell of it, rather than disguise, he changes his name to that of his best friend back home: the museum curator Herbert Widener. "Herbert" is pathologically excitable and attracts trouble with the ease of an Enid Blyton heroine, and within 30 pages he becomes embroiled in a mystery involving a set of drawings which feature Allan Stein, the little nephew of Gerrard. Slipping in and out of fact and fiction with apparent effortlessness, Matthew Stadler's writing is slick, funny and ever so stylish.

ALEX O'CONNELL

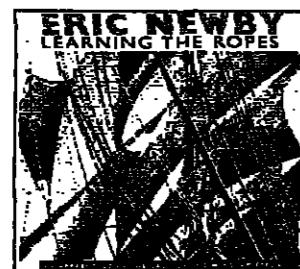


After 24 days at sea, the *Moshulu* rounded the northwest African coast — the man on the weather yard-arm is hauling out the head of the sail

All at sea (and loving it)

Tim Severin delights in a voyage on one of the greatest sailing ships ever built

LEARNING THE ROPES
By Eric Newby
John Murray
£22.50
ISBN 0 7195 5636 8



hanks to the State Literature Office of Western Australia, I found myself last month in the small coastal town of Albany running "Writer's Workshop". Among the local students was a lot of passage: a tall, well-spent Englishman, rather old-fashioned and — I would guess — in his late fifties. He explained, on his way round the world in a sailing boat travelling in slow stages. I hoped to pick up a few tips about writing up his logbook, as perhaps there would be an account of his voyage — "Eric Newby" was an immediate reply.

— and other Newby fans will delight in *Learning the Ropes*. The book is the essence of Newby's photographs taken during his classic 1938-39 voyage as an apprentice sailor aboard the five-masted barque *Moshulu*. The sea-struck Newby was 18 years old when he signed on for the round-the-world trip to South Australia, outward bound with a load of stone ballast in which ne Belfast dockside had concealed two dead dogs as a pungent joke, and

were superb. Anyone who has known how tired one can be after hours of hard labour at sea must admire the gritty persistence with which the young photographer kept going with his folding bellows Zeiss Super Ikonka. The pictures from aloft which show *Moshulu* and her sister ship bulk carriers were, it is claimed, the most powerful sailing ships ever built. They were also utilitarian to the point of starkness. There was no flourish, no panache, just plain hard-nosed money-making if operating costs could be cut to the bone. So the crews were minimal

and stingily paid — Newby got his job by return post because apprentices were cheap labour. He received ten shillings a month. The sailmaker, a master craftsman with 43 years' experience, got £7. The Captain did not do much better: he got £20 a month, "which didn't seem much for such a lonely position of responsibility".

Details like this, well-researched and deftly put, are packed into Newby's characteristically charming foreword and the captions to his pictures. They demonstrate how

he loved every moment of his trip — well, almost every moment. Oddly enough, doing the washing-up for the entire crew using half a kerosene can of hot water per session was, it seems, "far preferable" to cleaning the lavatories. One doesn't imagine that the apprentices left much on their plates. Newby makes the point that one common feature among the young seamen was their constant hunger. So it is the ultimate quirk that *Moshulu* is now tied up in Philadelphia and converted to a floating restaurant.

IN metro THIS SATURDAY

Welcome to the age of Witspell: Peter Ackroyd talks about his new novel, *The Piano Papers*, a satire set 2,000 years in the future

Also: boxers, squatters and bikers — *Adventures in Other England* by Nik Cohen; and God is a kamikaze pilot — the weird fictional world of Bo Fowler

A myth the size of a mountain

SCOTT BRAFIELD
CRAZY HORSE
By Larry McMurtry
Penguin, £12.99
ISBN 0 297 84242 0



The enormous statue of Crazy Horse in South Dakota

ing to most accounts, he lived faithfully to these precepts for the rest of his life.

Crazy Horse did not surrender to the white general so much as to the white weather. And when he turned over his arms after the terrible winter of 1876-77, he learnt from experience that deal-making with Washington was neither his nor his people's best suit.

After negotiating for hunting privileges which were immediately revoked, he displeased his visitors by refusing to betray his people, and eventually developed a following among the youngest warriors of South Dakota. It has taken more than half a century to complete and when it is finished it will depict not only the head of Crazy Horse, but also the only indisputable fact about him: he may not be clearly remembered, but he was definitely larger than life.

cians on both sides for not being sufficiently political. In the end, it cost him his life. On September 6, 1877, Crazy Horse was slain by an unremarkable private named William Gentles while resisting efforts to incarcerate him. As should be expected from such a mythical life, nobody agrees on what happened that day, or has any idea where Crazy Horse's parents eventually disposed of his body.

Today, though, the world's largest sculpture is being dynamited into the Black Hills of South Dakota. It has taken more than half a century to complete and when it is finished it will depict not only the head of Crazy Horse, but also the only indisputable fact about him: he may not be clearly remembered, but he was definitely larger than life.

Nimble-fingered

When we speak of the Holocaust, the images summoned are mostly those of the concentration camp. Wladyslaw Szpilman's powerful memoir, *The Pianist* (Gollancz, £12.99; ISBN 0 575 06708 X) supplies a whole other iconography, that of the Warsaw ghetto. A Jewish pianist, he managed to survive the ghetto and outside it in Warsaw on the run.

The most dramatic aspect of Szpilman's story comes in the war's final days when he was discovered by a German officer. On learning that he was a pianist, Wilm Hosenfeld persuaded him to play the Chopin Nocturne in C sharp minor.

He also recounts the sadism of the Jewish police and the daring of the underground to which he belonged.

Once he'd been spirited out of the ghetto, the book becomes a desperate chronicle of hunger, loneliness and pessimism. Looking out on a bombed landscape, he imagines himself the last person alive. Twice he's on the point of suicide when capture seems imminent. The third time he swallows sleeping-pills but awakes the next day.

For me, this book had an added poignancy. The Chopin Nocturne which saved Szpilman's life was the same one which saved my mother's, when she played it in Plazow concentration camp for Amon Goeth. What would Frédéric Chopin have made of that?

ANNE KARPF

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For an informal chat, ask to speak to Derek Joseph or Sue Piper



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Director of the U.K. Branch, London

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the Foundation's United Kingdom Branch in succession to the present Director Ben Whittaker who will be retiring in September 1999.

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Persons interested in applying for this full-time post in central London should obtain the detailed job description which includes information about the Foundation and its work and about the salary and conditions of service, and which is available from the Bursar at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), 98 Portland Place, London WIN 4ET. Tel. No. 0171 636 5313 ext. 216. Fax No. 0171 636 3421

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The closing date for completed applications is 30 April 1999.

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For further information, contact our recruitment advisers, Hays Accountancy Personnel, at 14 Great Castle Street, London W1M 7AD quoting reference : MNT/NH03. Tel: 0171 436 5533. Fax: 0171 323 9752. E-mail: west-end.pst@hays-ap.co.uk. Closing date for the response to this post is 23rd April 1999.

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If you are interested in this position please send your cv, in confidence, to Ms Emily Elington, National Dairymen's Association, 19 Cornwall Terrace, London, NW1 4QP.

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Small IMRO regulated Investment Management Firm urgently seeks an experienced (not less than 15 years) International Fixed Income Fund Manager with expertise in credit analysis. He or she will have at least two years experience in dealing with a European client base and speak fluent German. Further requirements are a University degree, CFA, IMRO and IMC registration. Job is based in London but requires extensive travelling throughout Europe.

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- Will have a strong analytical background, focused around either business strategy, finance or marketing.
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Interested candidates should apply in writing, quoting reference 497595 and enclosing a comprehensive copy of their CV to David Trapnell at Michael Page, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN or fax on 0171 831 2612 or e-mail: davidtrapnell@michaelpage.com

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Circa £35k + 15% performance bonus
As an experienced professional with full IPD membership and five years experience of HR management with experience of IP and ISO9001 you will be expected to make a major contribution to the continuing success of BLLC. Using the Business Excellence Model as your framework you will influence business strategy and oversee all formal accreditation requirements as well as managing and co-ordinating all staff recruitment and development.

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Circa £28k + 15% performance bonus
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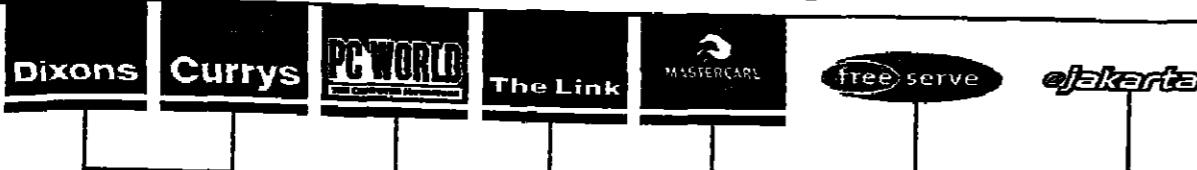
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This can lead to a staff position with The Sunday Times.

Members of the scheme will be trained in all aspects of journalism.

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Applications should be made, with cv, in the first instance to:

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Managing Editor
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London E1 9XW**

Applications must be received by May 3, 1999

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Selected candidate will perform strategic financial analysis on markets in the US, Latin America and Asia for global planning. Two years minimum experience in major financial institution required. Senior relationships with institutional clients and public agencies a must. Must be fluent in at least one Asian language (Chinese or Japanese). Previous small business experience a plus. Knowledge of database applications preferred. Graduate studies in economics preferred. Excellent package.

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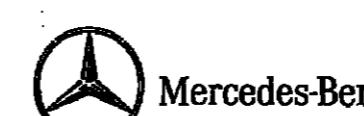
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Business Development Executive (Ref No 90405)
Circa £33k + 15% performance bonus
To contribute effectively to this role you will need to have sales experience in a business to business environment, and the motivation to succeed. You will enthusiastically sell BLLC's services, proactively identify and contact potential clients, increase awareness of BLLC and promote the services to businesses and intermediaries. General business acumen and a good understanding of how small and medium enterprises operate is essential.

Product Manager (Ref No 90406)
Circa £25k + 15% performance bonus

A graduate with a track record of developing new products and services in a business to business environment, you will be responsible for researching, developing and evaluating new products and services to ensure that BLLC's range of services reflect client needs. You will review and improve existing services on a regular basis in line with client feedback, market changes and other developments.

Business Development Co-ordinator (Ref No 90407)
Circa £24k + 15% performance bonus

As the first point of contact for BLLC business enquiries you will be responsible for advising potential clients of the range of services available. You will have the ability to deal knowledgeably with business enquiries and to qualify, allocate, administer and evaluate all leads. Your previous telephone sales/call centre experience and your IT skills will enable you to provide a professional and knowledgeable business advisory service to all callers.

Database Manager (Ref No 90409)
Circa £25k + 15% performance bonus

A graduate with a minimum two years experience in a business to business environment working on database management or data handling projects you will be responsible for all aspects of the development, updating, maintenance, evaluation and analysis of the BLLC client database. You will make best use of the data available within BLLC to help target new and existing clients and to identify and implement improvements and modifications to the database.

If so, send your CV and letter stating how you meet the requirements, quoting the relevant reference number to:

John Henderson,
Quantum Enterprise Development,
2 Sidings Court, White Rose Way, Doncaster,
DN4 SNU
Tel: 01302 761222
Fax: 01302 761333
e-mail: qe@compserve.com



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CRICKET

England are no match for peerless Pakistan

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN SHARJAH

SHARJAH (Pakistan won toss; Pakistan beat England by 90 runs)

A FEISTY, belatedly thrilling partnership between Graeme Hick and Andrew Flintoff could not disguise the fact that England were heavily beaten by a highly-motivated Pakistani side at the CBFS Stadium yesterday. Although conditions in Sharjah could hardly contrast more strikingly to those back home the enormity of this defeat — the seventh in eight one-day internationals — ought to alarm the selectors ought to alarm the selectors just five weeks before the start of the World Cup.

Inferior in every department, England conceded their highest total in this form of cricket, with the Pakistan innings of 323 for five underpinned by Ijaz Ahmed, who scored 137 from 130 balls. No England batsman could match him and unless the side recovers to beat India tomorrow, the prospects of qualifying for the final of the triangular tournament will be remote.

Briefly, Hick, who made 65, and Flintoff, whose 50 included four sixes, suggested that, in conditions heavily in favour of the batsmen, something akin to a miracle might materialise. However, Saqlain Mushtaq claimed both wickets in the space of four balls to expose the lower order.

Pakistan have undergone a transformation since Wasim Akram returned as captain at the start of the year. They must now be considered even as potential winners of the tournament beginning on May 14. The confidence brimming through the ranks just three days after winning the Pepsi Cup in Bangalore became apparent from the first legitimate delivery, propelled to the boundary by Saeed Anwar and coursed through the innings until Moin Khan struck the last two balls for six.

That Flintoff, making his international debut in one-day cricket, should be entrusted with the last over suggested that Alec Stewart wants to assess the young Lancashire all-rounder under pressure.

Despite bearing the brunt of the powerful late hitting, Flintoff can be judged neither better nor worse than his more experienced colleagues.

Collectively England failed to maintain a consistent line and length on a slow surface permitting little margin for error.

A listless performance in the field could at least be mitigated in part by afternoon temperatures in the high 30s and the after-effects of a



Ijaz paddles the ball round to the leg side during his explosive innings of 137 in 130 deliveries for Pakistan yesterday

16-hour journey from the training camp in Lahore.

Ijaz Ahmed found an effective foil in Shahid Afridi during a partnership of 87 in 17 overs for the second wicket before Inzamam-ul-Haq, restraining his aggressive instincts, pro-

vided even stouter support in a stand of 145 at more than a run per ball. Ijaz struck Croft on to the roof of the pavilion as he raised the tempo soon after completing a half-century. Stewart rotated the bowlers in vain before Ijaz drove Gough

to Hick at long-off. In his next over, Gough accounted for Inzamam as the stocky batsman attempted a similar stroke, having scored 59 from 64 balls with just three fours. A fine, low catch by Adam Hollioake diving to his right at deep cover

to remove Wasim represented a rare impressive moment by an England fielder.

England are using the time in Sharjah to extend their database on the opposition. If he did not know so already, David Lloyd, the coach, can now log the fact that Shoaib Akhtar is quick enough to make life extremely unpleasant for batsmen. Undaunted when Stewart struck him for successive boundaries in his first over, he responded by taking three wickets in a fiery new-ball spell timed at 95 miles per hour.

Knight played on to the tenth ball of the innings and Stewart edged an attempted drive to Inzamam at slip.

Thorp flattered with some well-timed strokes, but the clip off his legs that found short

mid-wicket was not among them and Azhar Mahmood breached Farborth's defences. Then it was just a damage limitation exercise.

Cricket goes first class for long haul

Richard Hobson looks forward to a congested and lengthy new season that gets under way today

TO FOLLOW the English cricket season through its course requires stamina, tolerance and a keen sense of orientation. Never before has the programme started as early as it does today and, if the 1998 schedule seemed to be confusing, then it stands as a model of simplicity alongside the 165 long days ahead.

That it should begin in the spring tranquillity of Fenners and The Parks remains at least one constant, yet despite unseasonably mild weather, the crowds will be sparse and even passive interest limited. For Lancashire and Worcestershire, who take on Cambridge and Oxford University respectively, this is little more than extended net practice.

Despite the swollen calendar, the demise of the contest between the county champions and MCC or England A is a shame. If nothing else, it presented an early insight into the selectors' thinking for subsequent international fixtures.

Whether Oxford and Cambridge retain first-class status far into the next millennium must be considered a matter of doubt. For cricketing purposes, Oxford have reacted to the possibility of being downgraded by taking the bold step of merging with Oxford Brookes University — the former polytechnic — to try to attract young cricketers unable to meet the stiff academic requirements of the colleges.

The England and Wales Cricket Board will announce shortly six universities designated as centres of excellence.

They will enjoy games against the counties, although it is unclear if they will be classified first-class. Regardless, an initiative to allow talented youngsters the opportunity to continue to play to a testing standard without forsaking education has to be applauded.

The World Cup will nudge county affairs into the background well before England open the tournament against Sri Lanka at Lord's on May 14. In the week before, any number of disgruntled swells have the opportunity to press a point in warm-up matches between the 12 competing nations and the counties.

Delegates from the counties, along with MCC, approved the idea at the First Class Forum meeting last week. Decisions on the framework of the game next season were deferred, but flicking through the fixture list for 1999, it seems perverse that more cricket, including the prospect of a new 25-over competition, will be introduced.

Clearly, the concept of retaining a structure for successive seasons, allowing players and the public a degree of familiarity, is anathema to hyperactive decision-makers. Voting to alter the length of games in the new CGU



Paul Todd gives the pitch at The Parks a final roll before the game there today. Photograph: Ben Gurr

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 8 1999

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES



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Tokens will appear up to April 18 and a bonus token will be published tomorrow. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday, April 30, 1999. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply. The terms and conditions will appear again on Saturday.

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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY LEAGUE: LONDON BRONCOS CAPTAIN FACES DECISION ON WEMBLEY START

Edwards far from final thumbs-up

SHAUN EDWARDS, the London Broncos captain, is considering whether he should risk permanent injury by making a record-extending eleventh Stink Cut Challenge Cup final appearance at Wembley against Leeds Rhinos next month.

A specialist has advised the former Great Britain scrum half not to play for up to 12 weeks after he broke his right thumb in the semi-final defeat of Castleford Tigers. Edwards played the second half of the match and six days afterwards against Hull Sharks using painkillers before going for X-rays. "It's broken in a really bad place and if it doesn't set properly, I might end up with very bad arthritis — and I'm right-handed," Edwards said.

Dan Stains, the Broncos coach, is reluctant to rule out a player with such a fearless reputation as Edwards, who

played on with a fractured eye socket during Wigan's 1990 cup final defeat of Warrington.

Meanwhile, London hope to have Robbie Simpson, Robbie Beasley and Peter Gill back in their pack for the visit to the Stoop Memorial Ground to

WORD-WATCHING

LEDGIT
(b) A label projecting from a leaf of a book. From from *ledge* + *it*. *The Bookseller*, 1885: "Half-bound, with Parchment Ledgits for the years."

MOLLAG
(a) A dog's skin blown up as a bladder, and used to float the herring-nets. The Manx word. As empty as a *mollag* — quite empty. As full as a *mollag* — dead drunk. "Your head's as empty as a *mollag*."

MAHOE

(b) The New Zealand Whitewood tree, *Melicytus ramiflorus*. "Mahoe grows to a height of not more than 50 feet."

MONGIBEL

(a) Mount Etna. From *Monte Gibello*. From the Arabic *jabal* — a mountain. "Within us we feel too often such furnaces or Mongibels or Mongibels of fires."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 Qxd6 and if 1 ... dxc0 2 Rd8+ Qd8 3 Rxd8 Kxf8 4 Rds+ Ke7 5 Nxc6 Kf6 6 Nxb8 and White wins.

ford Reds coach, summoned his players to a 7am training session yesterday, accusing some of them of living in "the comfort zone". Malcolm Alker, the Salford hooker, has sprung a shoulder, but Gregory hopes to have Gary Broadben at full back and David Hulme at loose forward for the visit of Castleford.



SALFORD COACH

MALCOLM ALKER

D GREGORY

DAVID HULME

G BROADBEN

ANDY BROWN

CASTLEFORD

TIGERS

LONDON BRONCOS

CAPTAIN

SHAUN EDWARDS

WEMBLEY

START

EDDIE EDWARDS

LONDON BRONCOS

TEAM

COACH

MALCOLM ALKER

SALFORD

HULME

TIGERS

LONDON BRONCOS

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HULME

TIGERS

LONDON BRONCOS

Changes to Augusta National bring big hitters to the fore



Pointing the way: Woods, already a champion, passes the time with Garcia, one for the future, during practice for the Masters at Augusta National

THE 63rd Masters begins this morning with animated talk of golf's new rivalry. Welcome to the dawning of an era in which Tiger Woods and David Duval will battle it out around the world as Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus did in the early Sixties and then Nicklaus and Tom Watson did in the Seventies and Eighties.

Will Mark O'Meara, the champion, help either Woods or Duval into the winner's green jacket on Sunday evening, so promising that we will be enthralled for the coming years by the derring-do of Duval, so cerebral and low-key off the course and so determined on it, and Woods's insouciant power?

Such a view needs a ring of authenticity to underscore it. It does not come from Jack Nicklaus, whose absence from the Masters was likened by Greg Norman to "your wife losing the diamond out of her wedding ring". Nicklaus has played in every Masters since 1959, when he was an amateur, but he misses the event this year because he has not recovered fully after having a ceramic hip fitted three months ago.

"I think the reason Arnold and I became a rivalry was because Arnold was winning most of the major championships and then I came along and won my first major by

Woods favoured in the long run

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA

beating Arnold in a play-off and then came back in 1963 and won the Masters. So, all of a sudden, it was two follows

major championships against each other."

This is hardly the case with Woods, who has won one major championship — the Masters in 1997 — and Duval, who has won 11 of his past 34 events, but not yet a major.

"That doesn't mean they aren't the two best players in the world, because I think they are," Nicklaus said, "but if you want to create a rivalry, wait until one wins the Masters and another wins the US Open. Then you've got a rivalry."

Furthermore, raising Duval and Woods to a status far above their rivals seems to be ignoring Ernie Els, who has won twice as many major championships as Woods and Duval combined and is a legitimate member of the group of great players under 30. It also overlooks Vijay Singh, who



holds the US PGA title and so could win two major championships in a row if he were to triumph this week. Davis Love III, who has finished in the top ten here three times in the Nineties, and Lee Westwood, whose form was impressive in 1998 to

play all four rounds.

There is speculation as to

when Garcia will turn profes-

sional and although the in-

formed guess is at the Spanish

Open in two weeks, it is not

written in stone.

Colin Montgomerie has

always firmly held the view

that he cannot play Augusta,

that a course with such wide

fairways does not reward his

accuracy from the tee or his

inclination to hit a high fade.

Funny, that. It didn't seem to

stop Nicklaus from winning

six times here.

If, as Nicklaus said, it is too

soon to be talking of a Duval

and Woods rivalry, it is not too

soon to suggest that Duval

may be too emotionally spent

to win his third event in suc-

cession, while Woods, who is

close to his best, can triumph.

The changes to the course,

lengthening the 2nd and 17th

holes and planting 35ft pine

trees on the right of the 15th,

can only help Woods and the

doubling of the length of some

of the rough should hardly af-

fect him. With his enormous

length, he can get nearer to the

2nd green in two than most

and so position himself better

to pitch close. "Everything they

have done has made it better

for the long hitter," Love said.

"The more difficult it is always

to give the advantage to the long

hitter."

The Masters has been won

more in the Nineties by a golfer

of finesse — Faldo (1990 and

1996), Olazabal (1994), Cren-

shaw (1995), O'Meara (1998)

— than one of length — Woot-

nam (1991), Couples (1992)

and Woods (1997). The change

s此 year suggest that it will be

a big hitter who will wear

the green jacket. If it is Woods,

then, perhaps, we can talk of

rivalry.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE

is the first Amateur champion

since Peter McEvoy in 1978 to

play all four rounds.

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Patching things up on the home front

REVIEW

Joe Joseph



Joe Joseph

Now, any TV producer looking for a more intrepid renovation challenge might care to take a look at *The Last Train* (ITV), a sci-fi drama which doesn't provoke the frantic reaction when watching sci-fi on TV forcing you to watch through parted fingers (not because you're scared, obviously; but because you don't look for fear that the next scene will be more preposterous than the last one).

Next week's candidates include Lucy Wood, who is so cash-handled that she must think DIY stands for Demolish-It-Yourself; Margaret Knight, whose husband won't connect her shower; and Yvonne Ferguson, whose husband has built an extension to the house but hasn't yet got around to building a door to it. Why? Don't these cheap-skates just call in a reputable builder to finish off the job properly?

I n *The Last Train* the world has been ravaged by a meteorite. There's not a building or human being left standing. The only apparent survivors are a handful of men and women whose Sheffield-bound train carriage was shielded from the blast by being halfway through a railway tunnel when the meteorite struck.

"Our challenge this week," Lowri and Nick could say, "is to tidy up

this awful mess. Now, God took

six days to build the world from

scratch. We're on a skimpier budget and tighter deadlines, so we're hoping to do it in five. To give us a helping hand we'll be using quick-drying emulsion instead of gloss, followed by a fast-drying, water-based varnish — just like we did on those bedroom cupboards we spruced up last week. Phone and tell us where you'd like us to start: if you'd like us to redecorate Europe first, press One. For

Africa, press Two. If you would like us to make transforming Asia our priority, then press Three."

Did I mention that the meteorite was "the size of Birmingham"? (Doesn't that place just always spell trouble?) Well, so far — there are five more episodes to go — the train passengers have just melted out of their cryogenic frozen suspension to discover that there's no other sign of life apart from several savage dogs.

There's a policeman, a thief, a mother with two children, a pregnant woman, a woman from the Ministry of Defence, an elderly lady — all pretty ordinary folk, none of them scientists, who look out across the newly barren horizon and announce: "If I'm not mistaken, this devastation is the result of a meteorite the size of Birmingham crashing into Africa and unleashing tidal waves that have caused binomial disarray ripples across the Earth's surface."

They are strangers to each other, suddenly forced to rely on each other to survive in a world plagued by acid rain, hungry dogs, and no convenient pizza delivery services.

The author Matthew Graham, who wrote two series of *This Life*, is obviously a fan of all those John Wyndham adaptations and *Quatermass* films. And he has adopted their trick of inflaming the eeriness of his story by plating it in familiar surroundings rather than on an unknown planet inhabited by creatures who all look like David Meller.

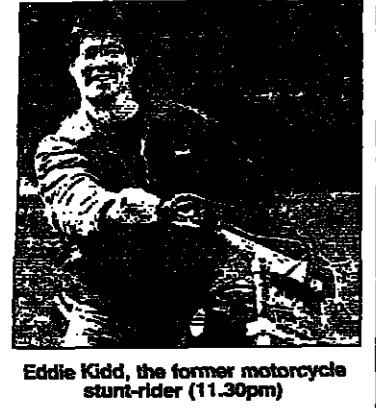
F rankly, not all that much happens in this opening episode, which, paradoxically, makes it more seductive than if it had contained dozens of subplots and encounters with spooky Mellorites. As long as Lowri and Nick don't turn up in their overalls, then it looks very promising. Watching just 40 minutes of

American TV politics in *Battle For Congress* (BBC2) — the first of Ann Parisi's fascinating two-part documentary following last autumn's contest between the Republican and Democratic candidates to represent California's Santa Barbara district — made you grateful that British election campaigns are limited to three weeks and that commercial TV and radio stations are not crammed with contrived electioneering commercials by the rival candidates.

You got a clearer picture of what made the candidates tick and what they stood for from watching them relaxing at home than you did from their TV commercials. Of course, there is one way of using television to reveal politicians' true natures while simultaneously giving us handy tips on how to lay a laminate wood floor. But no doubt some TV producer is already working on "DIY MP". At any rate, let's hope not.

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (65040)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (67175)
- 9.00 *Kirky* (T) (912330)
- 9.30 *Style Challenge* (T) (867757)
- 10.15 *The Vanessa Show* (T) (594693)
- 10.30 *News; Weather* (T) (917547)
- 11.15 *Change That* (T) (912576)
- 11.45 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (T) (915568)
- 11.55 *News; Weather* (T) (5191206)
- 12.00 *Going for a Song* (285773)
- 12.30 *Wipeout* (988545)
- 12.45 *The Weather Show* (T) (7605259)
- 12.55 *One O'Clock News* (T) (78734)
- 10.30 *Regional News; Weather* (58122040)
- 10.45 *Neighbours* **Madge makes a new friend** (T) (16380137)
- 10.55 *Invisions* An attorney suffering from amnesia turns to the Chef for help (T) (127559)
- 11.00 *Through the Keyhole* (T) (2237750)
- 12.00 *Children's BBC: Help! It's the Hair Bear* (Bunch) (967494) 3.45 *Chucklevision* (Critters) (266172) 4.10 *Arvin and the Chipmunks* (1415156) 4.20 *Julia Jeely and Hanif Hyde* (5978446) 4.35 *Goosebumps* (7679779) 5.00 *Newround* (5611576) 5.10 *Miami 2* (2462175)
- 5.30 *Remind* (T) (942663)
- 5.35 *Neighbours* (T) (811408)
- 6.00 *One O'Clock News; Weather* (T) (427)
- 6.30 *Regional News Magazine* (779)
- 7.00 *Watchdog* with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show, putting some of the biggest names on the high street under the spotlight (T) (2576)
- 7.30 *EastEnders* Ian catches Martin burgling his house (T) (683)
- 8.00 *Harbour Lights* The Blades salvage a businessman's car of vintage Scotch, leading to a highly charged game of cat and mouse. Meanwhile, Jane's ex-boyfriend makes an unscheduled appearance (T) (17155)
- 8.50 *Points of View* Viewers' opinions of the week's programmes (T) (905361)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather* (T) (856)
- 9.30 *CHOICE* **Slim's Journey Update on the Falklands war veteran Simon Weston** (T) (77205)
- 10.30 *Golf: The US Masters Action* (Iron Augusta) (20175)



Eddie Kidd, the former motorcycle stunt-rider (11.30pm)

1.30 Snapshot: Eddie Kidd Profile of the former daredevil stunt-rider as he tries to get back on his feet following the first serious accident of his career — which left him brain-damaged and in a wheelchair (T) (23243)

12.00 The Neon Empire (TVM 1989) Mob boss Ray Sharkey fulfils his dream of opening a casino in 1940s Las Vegas. With Martin Landau and Gary Busey. Directed by Larry Peerce (T) (810731)

1.55 BBC News 24 (5496248)

BBC2

- 7.00am *Children's BBC Breakfast Show*: *Poika the Shore* (530301) 7.30 *The Silver Brumby* (7355) 7.35 *Top Cat* (642762) 7.55 *Bobs Master* (8436798)
- 8.20 *Buried Treasure* (8143689) 8.40 *Blue Peter* (9610175) 8.10 *Gooper and the Ghost Chasers* (T) (7115756) 8.35 *Student Sodas* (8678428) 10.00 *Teletubbies* (25061) 10.30 *Flippy* (36449) 12.00 *Wildlife Showcase* (70750) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (93214) 1.00 *Wishing* (3363477)
- 1.10 *The Leisure Hour* Tops on getting started in golf (T) (9166021)
- 2.10 *Racing from Aintree* Clare Balding and Richard Johnson introduce the 2.35 Mersey Cup. *Cheltenham* 3.10 *Sandown Maghull Novice Chase* 3.35 *Mersey Foxhunters Chase* and the 4.20 Glentilly Anniversary Hurdle (3387408)
- 4.55 *Esther* (T) (949311)
- 5.30 *Whose House?* (156)
- 6.00 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* Quark is chosen to succeed Nagus Zek as leader of the Ferengi (T) (740788)
- 6.45 *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* New series. The Master's remains go missing, and the gang get embroiled in sinister plans for his resurrection (T) (15115)
- 7.30 *Designate* **Making It** The story of two talented design students from Brighton University who were spotted by Habitat (T) (205)
- 8.00 *RAY Mears' World of Survival* Ray visits the eastern shore of Lake Eyasi in Tanzania (T) (9865)
- 8.30 *Top Gear* Tiff Needell test-drives the Jaguar XK180 and Quentin Wilson presents the annual survey of motorists driving three-year-old cars (T) (1001)



Mark O'Meara, the defending US Masters champion (8pm)

- 9.00 *CHOICE* **Golf: The US Masters** Steve Rider presents live-round coverage from the pine-lined fairways of the Augusta National in Georgia (7866)
- 10.30 *Newsnight* Including news summary at 11.00 (T) (99034)
- 11.18 *Video Nation Shorts* (T) (440682)
- 11.20 *Late Review* The new Abba musical *Mamma Mia* (699601)
- 12.00 *The Phil Shivers Show* Bill's nest-egg is threatened (T) (8053373)
- 12.25pm *Holiday Weather* (236354)
- 12.30 *BBC Learning Zone: Open University: A New Sun is Born* — Part 1: *The Coup 1.00 The North Sea: Managing the Common Pool 1.30 Power and Vision: The West and the Rest 2.00 Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision — French 4.00 Teaching Film and Media: Film Education — An Ideal Husband: Text to Text 4.30 Film Education: The Producer's Tale 5.00 Teacher Training: Planet Europe — Studying Abroad with Erasmus 5.15 Planet Europe: Making Friends 5.30 Go Higher: Why Go Into Higher Education? 5.45 Open University: Playing Safe 6.10 Living with Drought*

- 10.00 *WEST: Tonight with Trevor McDonald* New series. The veteran newsreader delves behind the headlines (T) (1934)
- 10.00 *WALES: The Ferret* New series. Consumer reports, with Chris Sagar (75205)
- 10.30 *WALES: The Sharp End* New series. Political discussion (84953)
- 11.00 *TV Nightly News; Weather* (T) (319088)
- 11.20 *HTV News and Weather* (T) (620791)
- 11.30 *A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy* The pub and club scene (T) (18311)
- 11.30 *WALES: Wales This Week* Current affairs issues. Last in series (359)
- 8.00 *The Bill* Quinn returns to duty for the first time (T) (1311)
- 9.00 *The Last Train* Hamlet seeks help from an old acquaintance (T) (1175)

HTV

- 5.30am *ITV Morning News* (31430)
- 6.00 *GMTV* (2066040)
- 9.25 *CITV: Tiny Toons* (7136885) 9.50 *The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor* (867331) 10.20 *Bugs Bunny* (743088)
- 10.30 *ITV News Headlines* (T) (8821601)
- 10.35 *HTV News* (T) (8820972)
- 10.40 *The Beans* and I (1974) Disney drama, starring Patrick Wayne as an Army veteran who decides to set up home near an Indian reservation. Directed by Bernard McEveety (T) (31806593)
- 12.15pm *HTV News* (T) (7289683)
- 12.30 *Lunchtime News* (T) (2810717)
- 12.55 *Shortland Street* (T) (9789585)
- 1.30 *Lie Detector* (T) (16379021)
- 1.55 *The Jerry Springer Show* (T) (5244779)
- 2.40 *Wheel of Fortune* (T) (223394)
- 3.10 *ITV News* (T) (5933601)
- 3.15 *HTV News* (T) (5933601)
- 3.20 *CITV: Moplop's Shop* (5921866) 3.30 *The Adventures of Davide* (57898972)
- 3.40 *The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries* (4294595) 3.50 *Lavender Castle* (5799088) 4.05 *Hey Arnold!* (7240311)
- 4.30 *Children's Ward* (330)
- 5.00 *Lie Detector* (T) (7408)
- 5.30 *WEST: Pleasure Guide* (T) (882)
- 5.30 *WALES: Crazy Creatures* (T) (632)
- 5.58 *HTV Weather* (4068665)
- 6.00 *HTV News* (T) (595)
- 6.25 *HTV Crimestoppers* (232232)
- 6.30 *HTV Evening News; Weather* (T) (1715)
- 7.00 *Emmerdale* (T) (2412)
- 7.30 *WEST: We Can Work It Out* with Judy Finnigan and the team (359)
- 7.30 *WALES: Wales This Week* Current affairs issues. Last in series (359)
- 8.00 *The Last Train* Hamlet seeks help from an old acquaintance (T) (1175)



Current affairs with Martin Bashir and Trevor McDonald (10pm)

- 10.00 *WEST: Tonight with Trevor McDonald* New series. The veteran newsreader delves behind the headlines (T) (1934)
- 10.00 *WALES: The Ferret* New series. Consumer reports, with Chris Sagar (75205)
- 10.30 *WALES: The Sharp End* New series. Political discussion (84953)
- 11.00 *TV Nightly News; Weather* (T) (319088)
- 11.20 *HTV News and Weather* (T) (620791)
- 11.30 *A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy* The pub and club scene (T) (18311)
- 11.30 *WALES: Wales This Week* Current affairs issues. Last in series (359)
- 8.00 *The Bill* Quinn returns to duty for the first time (T) (1311)
- 9.00 *The Last Train* Hamlet seeks help from an old acquaintance (T) (1175)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 10.35-10.40am *Central News* (8820972)
- 12.20-12.30pm *Central News* (9407392)
- 12.55 *Lie Detector* (2895408)
- 1.25 *The Jerry Springer Show* (4069224)
- 2.10-2.40 *Echo Point* (8802295)
- 3.15-3.20 *Central News; Weather* (5933601)
- 5.30 *Shortland Street* (682)
- 6.00-6.30 *Central News at Six* (595)
- 11.20-11.30 *Central News; Weather* (820791)
- 11.30-12.30 *Wonderful You* (443359)
- 1.20am *Jenny* (6490593)
- 1.50 *Pop Down the Pub* (4057083)
- 2.15-3.10 *T in the Park* (7458915)
- 3.35 *The Making of Hard Rain* (4406267)
- 4.05 *Central Jobfinder '99* (5891422)
- 5.20-5.30 *Asian Eye* (9734606)

- As HTV West except: 10.35am-10.40am *West Country News* (T) (8820972) 12.15pm *West Country News* (T) (2895683) 12.27-12.30 *Illuminations* (9415311) 12.55-1.25 *West Country Litter Live* (T) (2895683) 1.25-2.00 *Meridian Tonight* (T) (595) 2.29-3.30 *Meridian Weather* (1962452) 11.20 *Meridian News; Weather* (T) (820791) 11.30-12.30 *Fitz* (T) (58885) 5.00am-5.30 *Freescreeen* (T) (32627)

- As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 *Meridian News; Weather* (T) (2895683) 5.30 *Ridgelines* (414) 6.00-6.30 *Anglia News* (T) (595) 6.30-6.50 *Anglia News and Weather* (T) (820791) 11.30-12.30 *Crime Night* (149576) 11.45-12.00 *The Ticket* (T) (177339)

- As HTV West except: 12.14pm *Anglia Air Watch* (8427156) 12.15-12.30 *Anglia News and Weather* (T) (2895683) 5.30 *Ridgelines* (414) 6.00-6.30 *Meridian Tonight* (T) (595) 6.29-7.30 *Meridian Weather* (1962452) 11.20 *Meridian News; Weather* (T) (820791) 11.30-12.30 *Fitz* (T) (58885) 5.00am-5.30 *Freescreeen* (T) (32627)
- Starts: 5.55am *Sesame Street* (5179779)
- 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (

